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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2005–06

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HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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13 June 2005

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 13 June 2005

TREASURY

Finance Bill

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Ivan Lewis): Clause 17 of the Finance Bill entitled, "authorised unit trusts and open-ended investment companies", contains powers to make regulations relating to the taxation of authorised investment funds. In order to inform discussion in Committee of the measures contained in clauses 17 to 19 of the Bill, I am arranging for a description of what these regulations will cover to be placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Gulf Veterans' Illnesses

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig): It has been a key principle of the Government's approach to dealing with the concerns of 1990–91 Gulf veterans that the Ministry of Defence will fund appropriate research into Gulf veterans' illnesses issues. In 2003, at MOD's request, the Medical Research Council (MRC) undertook a review of research into Gulf veterans' illnesses and provided recommendations about where future studies should focus. One recommendation was that MOD should pursue research to replicate preliminary US neuro-imaging studies in the UK. The MRC subsequently hosted meetings of experts in order to consider what research might be carried out in the UK. Among the conclusions reached by the expert group was that a major study now underway in the US is likely to be definitive, and that there is no need to replicate the preliminary work in the UK. The group were also unable to identify a specific way in which neuro-imaging studies could provide clear benefit to UK veterans. On 8 June 2005 the MRC advised that based on current evidence they do not recommend that this area of work be taken forward. Taking that advice into account, MOD has decided that it will not now proceed with neuro-imaging studies, although it would not close off the possibility of looking again at this once ongoing US studies have reported. The MOD continues to work with the MRC to take forward other recommendations of the MRC's 2003 review particularly in the area aimed at improving the long term health of veterans with persistent symptoms.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 2–3 June. I represented the United Kingdom. Items on the agenda relating to health were covered on 3 June. Items for discussion were: European Commission proposals for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on medicinal products for paediatric use; and the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods; the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to food; the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme of community action in health and consumer protection; obesity, nutrition and physical activity; combatting HIV/AIDS; and community mental health action.

On the paediatric medicines regulation, the UK supported the European Commission on the length of the supplementary protection certificate extension. The Commission was content with the proposal to incorporate a review mechanism specifically aimed at studying the reward mechanism. The UK spoke in favour of public access to the paediatric clinical trials database. This issue will need to be discussed further by the Council.

All member states voted in favour of a political agreement to the proposed regulation on nutrition and health claims made on food. The UK secured an amendment that safeguarded the development of "signpost" labelling for nutrients. The UK also made statements for the minutes concerning its disagreement on the choice of legal base and the need to ensure that opportunities were taken to reduce authorisation burdens in the next stages of the negotiation.

There was a qualified majority in favour of a political agreement to the proposed regulation on the addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to foods.

The Council had its first discussion of the Commission's proposed health and consumer protection programme for 2007–13. The Council's exchange of views was structured around presidency questions focused on the health objectives of the proposal. The UK gave its support for the general direction of the new programme but stressed that it would be important to ensure that the programme respected the scope of the treaty.

Ministers unanimously adopted three sets of council conclusions on obesity, nutrition and physical activity, HIV/AIDS and mental health.

Ministers took note of presidency information on: the proposal to amend the council regulation on fees payable to the European Medicines Agency; the international health regulations; the framework convention on tobacco control; the proposal on additives other than colourings and sweeteners to food; and conferences held during the Luxembourg presidency.

Member states also took note of information from the Commission on: the follow-up to the G10 pharmaceuticals process; pandemic preparedness planning; the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; environment and health; the high level group on health care and medical services; and follow-up to the tobacco products directive.

On the follow-up to the tobacco products directive, the UK undertook to take forward any work from the Commission and the World Health Organisation that emerged on this issue during the UK presidency of the European Union.

Ministers also discussed the health response to the tsunami in South Asia.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sudan (African Union Mission)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): The African Union mission in Darfur is doing an important job in trying to provide security for the people of Darfur who have suffered too long from this terrible conflict.

Where the AU troops are deployed, there has been a significant improvement in the security situation. But the impact of 3,000 troops is inevitably limited, which is why we fully support their decision to expand the force to more than 7,700. At the same time, we recognise the essentially political nature of the crisis in Darfur and will be supporting fully the Abuja peace talks process.

The UK has played a leading role in assisting the AU mission and I am announcing today that the UK will increase our contribution to the expansion of the mission to £19 million, from the £6.6 million contribution we announced at the AU donors' conference in Addis Ababa on 26 May. This brings our total contribution to AMIS since its inception to almost £32 million.

We will use this money to purchase up to 500 additional vehicles and further rapid deployment equipment. As part of NATO's efforts to assist AMIS expansion, the UK is also ready—subject to AU requirements and other donors' contributions—to support the airlift, co-ordinated by NATO, of up to three battalions into Darfur. The Defence Secretary has also agreed to provide a mobile air movements team of up to 15 people if required. The UK is also keen to provide the AU with technical expertise, and will be talking to the AU secretariat and others about this.

We are also keen to support the civilian police part of the mission. We will support the EU's efforts to offer the AU a package of support, including training for the AU police and technical experts and advisers. We will also build accommodation for AU civilian police in camps for internally displaced people and villages, so that they can be deployed where they are needed most.

The Foreign Secretary and I also wish to announce the appointment of Mr. Alan Goulty as the UK special representative for Darfur. He will support the African Union-led work to achieve a durable political settlement of the Darfur conflict, keeping in regular contact with all the main parties.

Mr. Goulty has an unparalleled knowledge of Sudan, deriving from his previous appointments as British ambassador to Khartoum, director for the middle east and north Africa in the FCO, and, from 2002 to 2004, as the United Kingdom's special representative for Sudan, where he played a key role in the successful negotiations of the comprehensive peace agreement, which ended the 21 year civil war in Sudan. He will perform his new role in addition to his current responsibilities as British ambassador to Tunis.

This appointment marks the UK's continuing commitment to achieving lasting peace throughout Sudan, including in Darfur. This cannot happen without a political settlement in Darfur.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): Along with Jeff Rooker, Minister of State for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, I have deposited copies of the annual report and financial statements of Ilex URC Ltd. for the year ended 31 March 2004 incorporating the auditor's report in the Libraries of both Houses.

Public Prosecution Service

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): Together with my noble Friend the Attorney-General I am pleased to announce today the launch of the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

This new service was one of the main recommendations of the Criminal Justice Review, which was published in March 2000. The review itself stemmed from the Belfast agreement. The recommendations of the review were implemented by the Justice (Northern Ireland) Acts 2002 and 2004.

The Public Prosecution Service will take responsibility for all prosecutions arising from a police investigation. It will provide an enhanced service for victims and witnesses, and encourage greater provision of prosecutorial and pre-charge advice to police. All charges will be reviewed by a public prosecutor before first appearance at court to ensure the case is properly brought. Prosecutions in the magistrates, youth and county courts will be carried out by public prosecutors. The new service will make use of the range of diversionary opportunities including informed warning, caution and youth conferencing as well as a range of restorative justice measures.

The number of cases dealt with by the service will increase from approximately 10,000 cases per year to more than 70,000 cases because it will take over all prosecutions originally conducted by the police. This increased demand will be met by a considerable increase in the number of lawyers, support and administrative staff. The current workforce of 150 staff and 40 lawyers will increase to 550 staff with 165 lawyers. The new service will grow to become one of the larger employers in Northern Ireland and the largest employer of lawyers and legal staff.New staff will be subject to an intensive six month training programme. It is a programme that ensures prosecution staff are not only knowledgeable in the law, but in the standards of fairness and of human rights that form the basis of any fair prosecuting authority. The training programme has already won a regional award in a National Training Awards UK competition.

The new Public Prosecution Service will operate an enhanced case management system. When the Causeway project goes on line on 21 June 2005, it will enable the service to receive files electronically. These, and other changes, will promote efficiency and help reduce the causes of delay.

The new Prosecution Service will also follow the recommendation of the Criminal Justice Review and be a regional service. It will have a devolved structure with regional prosecutors and five regional offices based in Ballymena, Lisburn, Londonderry, Newry and Omagh. This will not only allow for greater involvement with the community at a local level but will also create jobs in the regions.

The Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland is publishing a code of practice, which includes a code of ethics. These detailed documents will provide for the first time in Northern Ireland a detailed explanation of the factors and considerations taken into account in deciding on a prosecution and will set out the standards by which the prosecution will carry out its task. The code is the result of two periods of public consultation.

A copy of the code will be placed in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Merseytram

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Alistair Darling): I have considered very carefully all the information that Merseytravel has provided for Merseytram Line 1.

I provisionally approved a Government contribution of £170 million, in cash terms, towards the cost of Merseytram Line 1. That commitment remains if the scheme can be delivered at that cost. However, it has become increasingly clear that there is a problem with the cost of the scheme. The public sector cost has increased by 40 per cent. since I gave provisional approval, and that is for a smaller scheme.

In December 2002 the scheme was given provisional approval at a public sector cost of £225 million, in cash terms, with a capped DfT contribution of £170 million.

In November 2004 Merseytravel advised the Department that the public sector cost was £325 million. The Department's contribution was then presented as £204 million. That was for a reduction in scope, compared with the scheme we approved. If the northern loop was still included, that would have added around £25 million to the costs, bringing the cost increase for the original scheme to over 50 per cent.

In February 2005 Merseytravel submitted a claim for £4.2 million towards the preparatory costs incurred. This was in addition to the £204 million contribution it was seeking from the Department.

In February 2005 it also became clear that Merseytravel would seek additional funding from the Department if its proposal for a finance lease did not proceed as proposed. This assumed the Department would pay all its contribution upfront and allowed Merseytravel, in effect, to take advantage of the leasing company's tax allowances, providing Merseytravel with an extra £30 million but at a cost to the Government and taxpayer. The Department advised Merseytravel that this was an unusual arrangement for the public sector, which would need careful consideration within Government. I have concluded that I cannot approve it.

The Department told Merseytravel in March 2005 that under the new approach to approvals a final decision on whether to fully approve the scheme would not be made until the prices and risk allocation were firm, based on negotiated terms. Merseytravel advised the Department in May 2005 that, following negotiations with the preferred bidder, the total public sector cost was £315 million. But with the proposed local contribution of £77 million, the Government's contribution would be £238 million.

Last summer Merseytravel was confident of delivering the scheme for the agreed Government contribution of £170 million. Since last November, when Merseytravel put forward a revised public sector cost of £325 million, the Department has kept closely involved with the way the costs have developed. Merseytravel has managed to bring the costs down at the margin, reducing the total funding requirement by £10 million. However Government's contribution remains at some £238 million—40 per cent. more than the original capped figure of £170 million.

I appreciate that Merseytravel has made every effort to keep costs under control. However, it is clear that costs remain significantly higher than those that I approved, and that this scheme is an expensive way of delivering these transport benefits for Merseyside. Whilst I support tram schemes, I cannot do so at any cost. In the light of all the information I have therefore concluded that I cannot approve the proposal for Line 1.

I recognise that transport investment is needed in Merseyside to tackle the current problems and to support the future growth of the city. We have committed over £200 million to transport improvements in Merseyside over the last five years, and I intend to continue to support good value schemes in the area.

The £170 million that I committed to Merseytram Line 1 remains available if the scheme can be delivered at that cost. If it cannot, a great deal can still be done for Merseyside through other transport improvements; the Department would welcome a discussion with Merseytravel to develop a good value package of improvements, especially for improved public transport for the areas that would have been served by the tram. The funding will be there for the right proposals.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 14 June 2005

DEFENCE

Defence Vetting Agency

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Key targets have now been set for the acting chief executive of the DVA for the financial year 2005–06. Building upon the progress made since it formed in 1997, these incremental targets will help the agency to become more responsive to its customers by processing security clearances more quickly, without any loss of quality.

KEY TARGET 1: Externally validate quality to:

achieve at least a 98 per cent. success rating with cases independently selected at random.

achieve no serious errors that should have been identified at the time of vetting.

KEY TARGET 2: To complete the vetting review backlog programme by:

reducing the developed vetting review backlog to zero by 31 March 2006.

completing a further 33 per cent. of the security check review backlog programme.

KEY TARGET 3: To improve the completion time of routine cases to:

75 per cent. of basic checks in six calendar days.

75 per cent. of enhanced basic checks in 10 calendar days.

75 per cent. of security check transfers in 12 calendar days.

62 per cent. of counter terrorist checks in 30 calendar days.

65 per cent. of security checks in 30 calendar days.

83 per cent. of developed vetting in 100 calendar days.

KEY TARGET 4: To improve the completion time of priority cases to:

75 per cent. of basic checks and enhanced basic checks in three calendar days.

85 per cent. of counter terrorist checks and security checks in 10 calendar days.

70 per cent. of developed vetting in 30 calendar days.

Note: Volume of priority cases to be no more than 10 per cent. of total requests per month.

KEY TARGET 5: To achieve average completion times of:

six calendar days for basic checks.

10 calendar days for enhanced basic checks.

30 calendar days for counter terrorist checks.

12 calendar days for security check transfers.

30 calendar days for security checks.

70 calendar days for developed vetting.

Note: The above timeliness targets represent net performance that excludes delays outside of DVA control.

KEY TARGET 6: To reduce the unit cost of output by 2 per cent.

Copies of the DVA corporate plan will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

C Vehicle Capability

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am pleased to announce that the Amey Lex consortium has been awarded a contract to provide the armed forces with a new generation of heavy plant equipment, logistic support and construction machines, collectively known as C vehicles, under a private finance initiative deal. The contract is valued at over £600 million for the 15-year period.

The C vehicles will be used for earthmoving, digging, dozing, lifting and for transporting combat supplies around the battlefield. The great utility of this equipment has been seen on recent operations, building and maintaining the infrastructure for our troops.

Sourcing the equipment through a PFI deal will provide a more rapid fleet turnover, especially in the early years of the contract, which will allow changes in technology and fleet management processes to be introduced quickly, reducing the maintenance and supply burden thereby benefiting front-line troops.

The best elements of commercial practice will be used to support maintenance and repair, providing the opportunity to reduce spares holdings and to adopt a strategic pooling approach to the provision of the capability.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Zimbabwe

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Jack Straw): The most recent events in Zimbabwe are of grave concern. Zimbabweans are deprived of their democratic and human rights, facing the consequences of chronic economic misrule, and grappling with severe food shortages. Over the last three weeks the Mugabe regime has launched a brutal crackdown on some of the most vulnerable Zimbabweans, including inhabitants of urban shanty settlements and informal traders.

Over 30,000 have been arrested, with over 40,000 households (approximately 200,000 people) affected with their homes and businesses callously destroyed. People suffering from AIDS are amongst the worst affected. Many chronically ill people have been driven from their homes. HIV prevention and home-based care programmes have been severely disrupted. We are also very concerned about the welfare of children. Infants have been forced to sleep outside in the middle of winter. There are also reports of children being detained in prison and separated from their parents. The crackdown continues to spread across the country to many urban and some rural areas. Armed police have swiftly crushed any resistance with teargas. This action has received widespread international condemnation. The UN's special representative on the right to adequate housing called this a new form of apartheid.

In response, we have joined our EU partners in demanding that the Government of Zimbabwe end this crackdown, in a statement on 7 June. Our ambassador in Harare has raised our strong concerns, directly to the Government of Zimbabwe, in meetings with the vice president and the Minister of State for National Security. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) summoned the Zimbabwean charge d'affaires on 13 June to protest at the continuing human rights abuses under the ongoing crackdown. We remain in close contact with our EU partners, with whom I raised Zimbabwe at the 13 June General Affairs and External Relations Council. We also continue to work with other international partners to maximise the pressure on Zimbabwe to end this brutality and are discussing these and other human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, with neighbouring African states and regional African bodies.

DFID are already responding to this man-made disaster, providing US$ 400,000 so far towards humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable mainly through the UN and International Organisation for Migration. A further contribution is imminent. To date, over 5,000 families have been reached with food, blankets, soap and other forms of assistance. Where appropriate transport and emergency water and sanitation has been provided.

Since 2002 the European Union has imposed targeted sanctions on Zimbabwe; an arms embargo on the country and a travel ban and asset freeze on President Mugabe and leading regime figures. The EU's common position is kept under regular review. Together with our EU partners we have recently reassessed the situation in Zimbabwe following the March parliamentary elections. We agreed yesterday in the light of that assessment to extend the list of those regime figures caught by the travel ban and asset freeze, from 95 to 120 names. The new list includes all the senior members of the new Government and politburo, and senior figures involved in manipulating the election.

This decision emphasises the EU's continued concerns about the lack of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law that exists in Zimbabwe, and the failure of Mugabe and his regime to respond to international calls for reform.

Her Majesty's Government will continue to work with the European Union and our other international partners to restore democratic governance, human rights and the rule of law to Zimbabwe.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accommodation Centres

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Tony McNulty): After detailed consideration, I am announcing today that we will not proceed with the construction of an accommodation centre for asylum seekers at the former MOD site outside Bicester in Oxfordshire. Neither will we proceed with accommodation centres at any other potential site. We are, however, considering the merits of establishing a new, purpose-built, secure removal centre at the Bicester site, as part of an ongoing review and expansion of the removals estate.

The total cost of the Bicester project to date, since its inception in 2001, has been £18 million, including the costs of purchasing the land and the on-site preparatory works. Of this, it is estimated that approximately £8 million represents work which will be of direct benefit to the establishment of the proposed new removal centre and will therefore not need to be repeated should that centre proceed.

Since the project to establish accommodation centres began in 2001, the situation on asylum has changed very significantly. First, the rate of asylum applications has fallen sharply. The monthly rate, which was almost 6,000 at the end of 2001, and peaked at over 8,000 in 2002, has fallen to a little over 2,000 in recent months.

Secondly, significant progress has been made in the efficient handling of applications, such that initial decisions are now taken within two months on over 80 per cent. of new applications.

Thirdly, the five-year strategy for immigration and asylum published in February, "Controlling our borders: making migration work for Britain", will introduce more fast-tracking of asylum claims, closer control of the entire process, and the development of an underpinning new asylum model. Central to this approach will be the use of removal centres.

I will make a further statement on the future of the Bicester site later in the year, once more detailed work on the proposed removal centre has been completed.

PRIME MINISTER

Independent Honours Committee

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): An important milestone has been reached in the programme of reform of the honours system.

After an open selection process, which followed the requirements of the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the following have agreed to serve as chairs of the specialist committees which advise the Secretary of the Cabinet on candidates for honours:

Arts and Media: Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE (chairman of J Rothschild group of companies, first chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund and deputy chairman of BSkyB).

Community, Voluntary and Local Services: Lord Newton of Braintree, OBE (former Secretary of State for Social Security and current chair Council on Tribunals and chair Help the Hospices).

Economy: Sir John Collins (chairman Dixons Group plc).

Education: Dame Alexandra Burslem, DBE (vice-chancellor of Manchester Metropolitan university).

Health: Dame Carol Black, DBE (president, Royal College of Physicians and Professor of Rheumatology at the Royal Free and University College medical school London).

Science and Technology: Lord May of Oxford, OM, AC (president of the Royal Society).

Sport: Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth (chairman of Vodafone Group plc former chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board UK Sport Council and Tesco plc).

State: Sir David Cooksey (chair of Advent Venture Partners and director of the Bank of England 1994–2005 chairman of the Audit Commission 1986–1995).

The next stage is the selection of the independent members of the committees from people who responded to the advertisements in the press, the Public Appointments Unit and elsewhere. The chairs of the new committees will take a leading role.

Further announcements will be made when the new committees have been formed.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Energy

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): We are today announcing two significant developments in Government energy policy. The first is the publication of a carbon abatement technology strategy for fossil fuel use. The second is our response to the proposals made in the independent report we have received from consultants on a strategic framework for a future hydrogen economy. We are committing some £40 million of capital grants to stimulate the development of these technologies and of fuel cells. Around £25 million is expected to be allocated for demonstration of carbon abatement technologies with £15 million going to hydrogen and fuel cells.

Reaching the UK's target of cutting carbon emissions by 60 per cent. by 2050 requires action now that will enable us to use coal and gas more cleanly. We must of course maintain the very significant momentum already built towards renewables and energy efficiency; but in parallel, cleaning up our use of fossil fuels, developing the vast potential of hydrogen and fuel cells, and keeping UK industry on the front foot are vital long term objectives.

Fossil fuels will continue to be a dominant source of power for decades to come, with about 75 per cent. of UK electricity still likely to be coming from these sources by 2020. The carbon abatement technologies strategy has been designed to promote a twin track approach towards more efficient plant producing lower emissions, together with carbon capture and storage which would enable the remaining carbon to be captured before it escapes to atmosphere and stored in geological formations. At the same time, with major expansion of coal fired power generation expected in China and India, we want to put the UK at the forefront of what could be valuable export opportunities.

Fossil fuels, particularly natural gas, will be the principal source for the first generation of hydrogen production. The UK hydrogen energy strategic framework report provides an objective analysis of the benefits to the UK of moving towards a hydrogen future. It shows that hydrogen could provide competitive low carbon energy for transport from a range of secure energy sources. Though the technical and economic challenges are significant hydrogen has great long term potential and the UK needs to put itself on the path to reap the benefits. Fuel cells also have significant potential in non-transport applications, for example natural gas fuel cells have the prospect of becoming viable for stationary power generation over the next few years.

We are today also announcing our intention to establish a hydrogen co-ordination unit which will help to bring together existing and future activity on hydrogen within an overall strategy. It will help to ensure that the UK's participation in international initiatives such as the international partnership for the hydrogen economy is fully effective and benefits both the UK and our international partners.

Across all the technologies there are very major EU and wider international interest and activity offering significant opportunities for British businesses. One of the aims of the hydrogen and CAT strategies is to position the UK to capitalise on this.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the benefit fraud inspectorate (BFI) has today announced its phase 12 programme of work. It is important that local authorities deliver housing benefits services that meet customer needs and protect public money. There is still too wide a gap between those authorities delivering an effective, secure service and those that are not.

The BFI programme covers six authorities that were taking significantly longer to process new benefit claims than the average of 42 days in the quarter ended December 2004. The authorities are Rhondda Cynon Taff county borough council, Rugby borough council, the royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Havant borough council, Highland council and Cardiff council.

BFI will also be undertaking seven inspections of authorities that have a low level of prosecutions and sanctions. These inspections will focus on the adequacy of counter-fraud and verification arrangements in Cannock Chase district council, Waverley borough council, borough of Poole, West Devon borough council, Weymouth and Portland borough council, Mendip district council and Clackmannanshire council.

A full inspection of Ceredigion county council will be undertaken as this authority's benefits service was found to be at risk following assessment as part of the Wales programme for improvement.

I am pleased to announce that planned inspections of Malvern Hills district council and Mansfield district council will not go ahead because both councils have shown significant improvements in their performance.

BFI is an independent unit within the Department for Work and Pensions that inspects and reports directly to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effectiveness and security of benefits administration in local authorities and the Department.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 15 June 2005

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service (Fast Stream Recruitment)

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Hutton): The 2004 Fast Stream Recruitment report was published online at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk today. It covers the 2004 schemes covering the period April 2003 to November 2004, and reports the results of the fast stream competitions completed during that period, together with the developments that have taken place.

The standard of entry to the fast stream recruitment scheme has remained consistently high and the report shows that the civil service has continued to have increasing success in filling its vacancies.

Women applied in slightly reduced numbers during the 2004 scheme however, in terms of their progress through the selection process female applicants were more successful than their male counterparts in the general fast stream and economist schemes.

The proportion of candidates from ethnic minority groups dropped from the previous year, down by 2.4 per cent. We have increased our marketing and outreach activities to this audience, the selection process has been updated and there is early indication of improved figures.

The percentage of candidates declaring a disability rose again this year from 2.4 per cent. in 2003 to 3.2 per cent. in 2004. Those recommended for appointment rose from 3.5 per cent. in 2003 to 7.3 per cent. in 2004.

DEFENCE

Armoured Vehicle Training Service

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am announcing that the Ministry of Defence has decided to seek an alternative to the current private finance initiative (PFI) solution for the armoured vehicle training services (AVTS).

A detailed assessment of the Landmark Training Ltd consortium's bid has concluded that the PFI deal did not offer an acceptable value for money solution to meet the capability that the MOD required.

I realise that this will be disappointing for the bidders. However, robust decisions need to be taken and we will only proceed with such a long-term commitment of public money where we are confident of a successful, value for money outcome for our armed forces and the taxpayer.

Improvements to our armoured vehicles training will continue. This change in direction will allow us to examine other procurement options. We plan to take advantage of emerging technology and best practice as it develops in the commercial training areas, which could include public-private partnership forming part of the overall future solution. In the meantime, the quantity and quality of existing armoured vehicles training will be maintained to support the professional performance of our armoured fighting vehicle crews as exemplified in Iraq.

Although not continuing with this PFI, the MOD will continue to use PFI where it can be shown to deliver better value for money as exemplified by the recent PFI deal with the Amey Lec consortium to provide C vehicles for the armed forces.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Citizenship

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Tony McNulty): The Government believe strongly that the acquisition of British citizenship should be recognised and celebrated as a crucial stage in integration into British life. To that end it has introduced citizenship ceremonies and has taken powers to specify the knowledge of language and life in the United Kingdom which new citizens should possess. I am pleased to be able to announce the next stages in the implementation of those changes. While the arrangements announced today relate primarily to those seeking citizenship through the medium of English, special arrangements will be made to allow people wishing to apply through the medium of Welsh or Scottish Gaelic to do so. A separate statement on the implementation of similar tests for those seeking permanent settlement in the UK, announced in principle on 7 February in "Controlling our Borders", the five-year strategy for asylum and immigration, will be made in due course.

The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 amended the British Nationality Act 1981 to require those seeking naturalisation as British citizens to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of life in the UK as well as knowledge of English. The way in which these provisions should be implemented was considered by an independent group under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Bernard Crick. The group published its final report "The New and the Old" in September 2003; and in a written ministerial statement on 2 February 2004, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, on behalf of the Government, accepted the majority of their recommendations. An advisory board on naturalisation and integration has now been set up to monitor and advise on their implementation.

Regulations came into force on 28 July last year specifying that all those applying for naturalisation must demonstrate knowledge of English to the standard of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) entry 3. We are now looking forward to the next stages of the process, which will be the commencement of the requirement that intending new citizens should demonstrate knowledge of life in the UK and the introduction of regulations which will set out how such knowledge is to be demonstrated. The regulations will come into force on a date to be announced later this year and from then new applicants will have to demonstrate both knowledge of language and of life in the UK. Applications received before the requirement is introduced will not be affected by this change.

It is envisaged that there will be two principal methods by which intending citizens based in the UK can demonstrate their knowledge of language and of life in the UK. First, applicants who are at or above ESOL entry 3 standard of English will be able to undertake a specially developed short test of knowledge of life in the UK. Subject to contract, these tests will be prepared and administered by Ufi Ltd. and will be available to be taken on computer at many of their existing learning centres throughout the UK. There will be different versions of the test, including variations appropriate to the devolved Administrations. The tests will be based on the information contained in the handbook "Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship", prepared by members of the independent group chaired by Sir Bernard Crick, which was published on 15 December and is available from The Stationery Office.

To make the whole process more convenient and cheaper to applicants, the Government have decided that successful completion of this test will remove the need for applicants to provide separate evidence of language ability, as it will be set at a level that requires language skills at or above ESOL entry 3 level. In the light of this decision, the Government have decided not to add elected representatives or any other group to the list of people designated under existing legislation as able to certify that applicants for naturalisation are fluent in English.

The second method is for those potential new citizens assessed as below ESOL entry 3. They will be able to meet the new requirements by successfully completing new "ESOL-with-citizenship" classes—language courses involving learning materials which incorporate information about life in the UK. These materials have been designed for delivery in the context of the new DfES "ESOL-Skills for Life" suite of language qualifications or equivalents in other jurisdictions; they have been developed by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) in conjunction with the London Language and Literacy Unit and are faithful to the concepts outlined in "The New and the Old". They are intended to enable a student to gain sufficient knowledge of the UK at the same time as developing their knowledge of the English language.

Again the Government intend to make this as convenient as possible by providing that a person who successfully completes one of these programmes (which, in accordance with normal practice, will be pitched at the appropriate level for their learning needs) will not have to take separate tests in English or knowledge of life in the UK.

The Secretary of State retains discretion to grant citizenship to applicants who cannot satisfy the above conditions because of age or infirmity but who meet all the other requirements for naturalisation as a British citizen.

The new ESOL-with-citizenship classes are already being piloted in 18 Learning and Skills Council areas, including at adult, community, further education and sixth-form colleges. The courses have now been validated, and the Home Office and Department for Education and Skills will continue to work together to make them widely available.

As was emphasised in "The New and the Old", the availability of good quality English language teaching is crucial to the success of the new arrangements. ESOL provision to meet adult language needs has increased significantly over the last three years, in cost, volume or provision and in terms of the range of groups able to access it. The Department for Education and Skills is working with the Learning and Skills Council at national, regional and local levels to improve the planning, delivery and quality of ESOL provision with the aim of targeting it more effectively so that priority needs can better be met.

Prison Service (Sustainable Development)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Andy Burnham): I will today place in the Library of the House copies of HM Prison Service's third annual sustainable development report, covering public sector prisons in the period April 2004 to March 2005.

The report sets out the progress being made by the service in addressing its sustainable development commitments. Significant achievements include introducing a biodiversity action plan for the whole of the public sector prison estate; establishing waste management units at individual prisons; reducing the service's carbon dioxide emissions by 7 per cent; and introducing an environment manual to improve prisons' environmental performance. In addition, the report addresses the service's impacts in respect of reducing re-offending and improving prisoners' prospects on release.

The report also details the service's future aims, particularly for meeting the targets set under the Government's framework for sustainable development on the Government estate and the initiatives planned to continue its successes.

NORTHERN IRELAND

River Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Angela E. Smith): My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Northern Ireland has made the following ministerial statement:

"Rivers Agency is an Executive agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland. It acts on behalf of the Department as the statutory drainage and flood defence authority for Northern Ireland.

The following key targets have been set for the agency for the 2005–06 business year:

	Key Targets
Urban Flood Defences:	To construct or refurbish 286 metres of urban flood defences.
Drainage Infrastructure:	To accommodate increased storm run-off from 79 hectares of development land. To replace/refurbish 646 metres of dangerous culverts.
Maintenance Watercourses:	To complete identified maintenance works on 1,167 of the 1,617 designated open watercourses included in the notice of annual maintenance as part of a six-year scheduled maintenance programme.

	Key Targets
Replies to written enquiries:	To issue substantive replies to 80 per cent. of written enquiries within 15 working days of receipt.
Schedule 6 applications:	To respond to 98 per cent. of schedule 6 applications within three months."

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (Debt Management)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the benefit fraud inspectorate (BFI) inspection report on debt management—handling of complaints and comments was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

The Department for Work and Pensions administers a wide range of benefits, paying out some £110 billion in 2003–04. As a result of customer or official error, from taking out loans from the Department or from fraud, people can find themselves in debt to the Department. The Department has an obligation to protect public funds and debt management is responsible for the recovery of these debts. In 2004–05 it recovered £190 million.

BFI looked at debt management's recovery procedures and in particular at how they handled complaints and comments from customers. A lack of corporate processes, limited procedures and little guidance for staff led to inconsistencies in approach and to some examples of poor customer service.

In response to the BFI findings debt management has redesigned its business process and is currently implementing a new IT system which promises significantly to improve its efficiency in the recovery of debts and handling of customer complaints.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now considering the report and the action plan produced by debt management in response to BFI's report.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 16 June 2005

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Report (2005)

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Hutton): I have today, with my right hon. Friend, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, laid before Parliament the "Cabinet Office Departmental Report 2005" (Cm 6543).

The departmental report describes the work of the Cabinet Office and includes a performance report for each of our public service agreement targets. The report contains information on how the Department is structured to deliver our objectives, outlines the priorities ahead and also includes a set of tables showing past outturn and future expenditure plans.

Copies are available in the Vote Office and in the Library.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Review of Statutory Prohibitions on Disclosure

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has made the following written ministerial statement in the other place.

"Today I have deposited copies of the report on the "Review of Statutory Prohibitions on Disclosure" in the Libraries of both Houses.

The review stems from the order-making power in section 75 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to remove or relax statutory prohibitions on disclosure. The report gives details of all the provisions examined during the course of the review and sets out the Government's intention in relation to each of them. Of the 183 provisions which were reviewed and found to be within the scope of the power, 13 have already been amended using that power, and a further 59 will be repealed, amended or time-limited.

The Government will continue to assess the scope for further amendments or repeals to the remaining prohibitions on disclosure. Beginning in 2005, the Government will prepare and bring forward a series of orders under section 75 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, giving effect to the commitments made in this report".

DEFENCE

Defence Estates (Corporate Plan)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig): I have set out the following key targets for 2005–06 for Defence Estates, as laid out in the agency's corporate plan 2005–2010:

KEY TARGET 1

To improve the defence estate in a sustainable manner to improve its fitness for purpose and condition by:

Delivering 2,500 single living accommodation grade 1 bed spaces under project SLAM, reporting on the provision of 5,300 bed spaces under parallel projects and delivering 600 upgraded service families accommodation properties by 31 March 2006.

Developing integrated estate management plans, in conjunction with customers, as a baseline for measuring improvements to target condition of assets.

Ensuring that 75 per cent. of MOD sites of special scientific interest in the UK meet the criteria for satisfactory condition by 31 March 2006.

Achieving 80 per cent. of a basket of sustainable development in Government targets against a 2004–05 baseline by 31 March 2006.

KEY TARGET 2

To provide an estate of the right size through the consolidation of assets by:

Providing an estate of the right size, through the implementation of estate rationalisation plan projects.

Achieving accrued estate disposal receipts of £250 million by 31 March 2006.

KEY TARGET 3

To improve customer satisfaction and service delivery by:

Achieving 90 per cent. of customer supplier agreement targets by 31 March 2006.

Developing a new and robust customer satisfaction survey for occupants of service families accommodation.

KEY TARGET 4

Achieve key milestones for implementation of key MOD change initiatives by:

Awarding the regional prime contract (central) by September 2005 and regional prime contract (east) by October 2005.

Awarding the housing prime contract by August 2005.

Implementing the changes in estate working practices in Northern Ireland and the other residual areas required as a result of the Alexander study.

Implementing the UK elements of the defence training estate rationalisation study by 31 March 2006.

KEY TARGET 5

Deliver value for money efficiencies by:

Demonstrating 3 per cent. through-life value for money output efficiencies in prime contracts, against the 2004–05 baseline, by 31 March 2006.

Deliver output efficiencies against project SLAM of £5.04 million by 31 March 2006.

Deliver output efficiencies against project Aquatrine to the value of £11.04 million by 31 March 2006.

Deliver savings from the introduction of housing prime and the restructuring of defence housing of £9.1 million by 31 March 2006.

Reduce the management margin of vacant housing to 10 per cent. by November 2005.

I have placed a copy of the new Defence Estates corporate plan in the Library of the House.

RAF Command Headquarters

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): In the 2004 Defence White Paper, "Delivering Security in a Changing World", we referred to plans to collocate strike and personnel and training command headquarters. This is part of a programme to create a modern, effective and efficient headquarters structure for the Royal Air Force.

A study has been conducted into the potential for increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the two headquarters (currently based at RAF High Wycombe and RAF Innsworth) by rationalising and collocating them on a single site. This work was undertaken against the background of the reduction in size of the RAF from approximately 49,000 to 41,000 by 2008 announced on 21 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 348.

A number of sites were evaluated, including RAF High Wycombe and RAF Innsworth, to determine their relative operational and financial benefits. The study concluded that RAF High Wycombe offers the best value for money and is operationally more effective. I have therefore decided that, subject to trades union consultation, High Wycombe should be the site of the collocated RAF headquarters.

The study also showed that, as a result of collocation, the headquarters will require some 1,000 fewer posts (500 service, 500 civilian) than the two current organisations. These reductions will contribute to the previously announced wider MOD manpower drawdown. Some 1,350 headquarters posts (600 service and 750 civilian) will be lost from RAF Innsworth. Personnel numbers at RAF High Wycombe will increase from some 2,050 posts now (1,540 service and 510 civilian) to around 2,150 (1,400 service and 750 civilian) by 2008. A number of posts currently based at High Wycombe will move to other RAF units.

The target date for standing up the collocated headquarters is October 2006. However, in view of its role in managing the overall draw down in RAF numbers, the personnel management agency will not relocate to High Wycombe until April 2008.

Part of the RAF Innsworth site is occupied by elements of the armed forces personnel administration agency (AFPAA) currently employing some 540 staff, including contractors. I expect the agency's presence at Innsworth to continue until mid 2008, during which time internal rationalisation unconnected with this announcement will have reduced the number of posts concerned to around 260 (including 170 MOD civilians and 70 contractor staff). The future location of this part of AFPAA is being examined. Unless another defence use is found for the Innsworth site, it will be disposed of once AFPAA relocates.

The 200 support staff posts (110 service, 90 civilian) on the site will reduce in line with the overall drawdown.

I recognise that this announcement will cause disappointment in the Innsworth area. However, I have to make the best decision for defence as a whole. We are doing everything possible to mitigate the impact on the staff concerned. Our current plans envisage that the civilian reductions, most of which will take place in the Gloucester area, will be achieved through a combination of natural wastage and voluntary early release. If we are obliged to resort to compulsory redundancies, we will endeavour to keep them to a minimum. Staff and the trades unions are being kept fully informed of developments through meetings, briefings and a formal consultation exercise.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Tripartite Committee on Local Government Pension Scheme

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): In a statement issued on 18 March, the Deputy Prime Minister announced that he was establishing a tripartite committee with key stakeholders, to discuss the future of the local government pension scheme. The first meeting of the tripartite committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, subsequently met on 24 May and was attended by representatives of the local authority employers and the trade unions.

The Committee will focus on the development and modernisation of the scheme and will consider the measures which need to be put in place to ensure the scheme's affordability and sustainability.

The Government believe that local authority employees should have a stable, strong pension scheme in which they can have confidence. It is important, however, that the balance is right between, on one hand, the cost of the scheme to the taxpayer, and, on the other hand, the value of the benefits which the scheme offers to current and future pensioners.

Further meetings of the Committee are now being arranged to ensure the implementation of essential decisions about the scheme's long-term future.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Annual Report (2005)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Margaret Beckett): My 2005 departmental report, which contains information on progress against the Department's objectives, the challenges ahead and summary expenditure plans for 2004-05 to 2007-08, has been published today. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Climate Change Programme

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Mr. Elliot Morley): The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the terms of reference for the review of the UK climate change programme (CCP) on 15 September 2004. These stated that the Government would aim to publish a revised programme in the first half of 2005.

I have today announced, through a press notice, that Ministers have agreed to postpone the publication of the revised programme to allow more time for the completion of the appraisal of new policy options. The programme will now be published before the end of the year. This will enable us to produce a programme to put us back on track to achieving the domestic goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. by 2010 and ensure that we can achieve real progress by 2020 towards the long-term goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by some 60 per cent. by about 2050.

In addition, I am pleased to say that the extended timetable will allow us to take full account of the outcome of a number of other pieces of ongoing work including the energy efficiency innovation review—important as energy efficiency, both in the domestic and business sectors, may be expected to contribute significantly to future emission reductions. It will also give us more time to take forward the commitments in the 2005 Budget, including how we might support the development of carbon capture and storage, and the commitment in the manifesto to explore the scope for the further use of economic instruments and other measures to promote lower vehicle emissions.

The revised timetable will also fit more closely with the timetable for developing phase II of the EU emissions trading scheme. It will enable us to take into greater consideration the level of the cap for the second phase of the EU ETS which is occurring in parallel to the CCP review.

HEALTH

Food Standards Agency's Departmental Report (Spring 2005)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Caroline Flint): The Food Standards Agency's departmental report spring 2005, Cm 6525 was laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be placed in the Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers (11 March 2005–11 June 2005)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires me to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on my exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The 2005 Act came into force on 11 March 2005. During the first three months of the operation of the Act, I made 11 non-derogating control orders. Ten control orders were made on 11 March 2005 under section 3(1)(b) and (c) of the 2005 Act in respect of individuals who were at that time certified under section 21(1) of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (the 2001 Act). A further order was made with the permission of the court under section 3(1)(a) of the 2005 Act on 26 April 2005—again in respect of an individual who was formerly certified under section 21(1) of the 2001 Act.

I have modified these orders to authorise a change of address in three instances; to give effect to the court's ruling following an appeal—see below; to give access to further family members in one case; and to clarify the wording of certain obligations in the control orders on two further occasions.

A right of appeal exists in section 10 of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State not to modify an obligation contained in a control order. One of those subject to a control order has exercised his right of appeal under this section and has had his appeal upheld. His order has since been varied to substitute different obligations on him.

Section 14(2) of the 2005 Act requires the Secretary of State to appoint a person to review the operation of that Act. Lord Carlile of Berriew QC was appointed as the independent reviewer of the 2005 Act on 11 March 2005.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Annual Report 2004–05

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): I have placed copies of the Criminal Justice System Northern Ireland's annual report for 2004–05 in the Libraries of both Houses, on behalf of the criminal justice ministerial trilateral.

This year the report has adopted a thematic approach, detailing progress against six themes: working in partnership; reaching out to the community; responsiveness; reducing delay; confidence in the criminal justice system; and promoting diversity.

The report demonstrates how each agency contributes to and supports its partner organisations in the achievement of cross-cutting objectives. Key areas of success include the development of the new causeway information sharing system, progress on the development of the new public prosecution service, the establishment of 26 community safety partnerships, the joint NIPS and PBNI resettlement strategy, and the appointment of lay magistrates.

The report demonstrates that all of us, from ministerial level through to frontline staff, are committed to ensuring that the criminal justice system serves the community effectively, in partnership and with integrity.

Human Rights Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to announce today the appointment of Professor Monica McWilliams as the new Chief Commissioner of the NIHRC. I am also appointing seven new Commissioners—Jonathan Bell, Thomas Duncan, Professor Colin Harvey, Alan Henry, Ann Hope, Eamonn O'Neill and Geraldine Rice.

These new appointments will join the existing two Commissioners, Lady Christine Eames and Kevin McLoughlin, who were reappointed last autumn to serve until December 2007. The appointments follow an open recruitment process based on merit. The new Chief Commissioner and seven new Commissioners will take up their posts in the early autumn.

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is a key part of the architecture of human rights protections in Northern Ireland, and an important feature of the Belfast Agreement. The Government have consistently been clear that it is in all our interests to have a strong, independent and self-confident Commission which draws support from all parts of the community.

I am confident that these new appointments will ensure that the Commission will make a significant contribution to the advancement and protection of human rights in Northern Ireland in the coming months and years. I look forward to working with the new Commission.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 20 June 2005

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Legal Aid Asylum Appeals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice): The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has made the following written ministerial statement in the other place today:

"On Friday, 17 June I published the Government's response to the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee report on Legal Aid Asylum Appeals. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It is also available on the Department for Constitutional Affairs website".

Special Immigrant Appeal Commission

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice): The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has made the following written ministerial statement in the other place today:

"On Friday 17 June the Government published their response to the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee's report on the operation of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) and the use of special advocates. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The response is also available on the Department for Constitutional Affairs website."

HEALTH

Health Improvement and Protection Bill (Smoking)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Caroline Flint): The Queen's Speech announced that legislation to restrict smoking in enclosed public places will be introduced as part of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill during this parliamentary session.

A consultation paper is to be published today on the smoke-free elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill.

This will begin a public consultation, which will run until 5 September.

This is an England and Wales Bill, but the provisions described in detail in the consultation document apply to England only. In relation to Wales, it is proposed that the Welsh Assembly should be enabled under the terms of the Bill to make provision for smoke-free public places in accordance with the policy that they may determine in relation to this issue.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Report and Corporate Plan

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke): We have today published the Home Office's 2005 annual report, its 2005–06 corporate plan and its departmental investment strategy. Copies are available in the House Library and on the Home Office website. The first two of these describe how the Home Office builds a safe, just and tolerant society as reflected in our strategic objectives and key targets. These set out how, in turn, delivery depends on the Department's three key pillars of responsibility, dealing with, policing security, community safety and active communities; ensuring that our new National Offender Management Service is implemented and that we work effectively with our partners across the criminal justice system (CJS); and establishing a clearly robust and fair approach to immigration, citizenship and nationality.

The report is primarily focused on 2004–05, setting out our performance against key targets and describing how our activities contributed towards them. The plan is focused on the present financial year, explaining how we will deliver better public services and how the Department is organising itself to deliver these.

We are also placing on our website www.homeoffice.gov.uk the Department's investment strategy. This sets out at greater length the critical role that capital investment plays in improving our key public services.

Charity Commission

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Paul Goggins): I am today announcing that the Charity Commission will be publishing its departmental report for 2005 on 20 June. Copies of that report will be available in the Library.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Empirical Economics of Standards

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Barry Gardiner): I am pleased to announce that the benefits of standards to UK business, innovation and the wider economy can be quantified for the first time. A programme of studies commissioned by the National Standardisation Strategic Framework (NSSF), have brought together the analysis of findings fro the University of Surrey, Nottingham University Business School and the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research in Germany. The principal findings of the report show that:

Formal standards contribute £2.5 billion to the growth of the UK economy annually as a means of spreading knowledge and technology;

Through this role, since 1948 the benefit of formal standards to UK GDP exceeds £75 billion;

Standards enable 13 per cent. of the growth in labour productivity; and

Standards are emphasised as an enabler of innovation.

The report can be found on:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/iese/The_Empirical_Economics_of_Standards.pdf and hard copies will be made available in the parliamentary Library.

The National Standardisation Strategic Framework (NSSF) was developed by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the British Standards Institution (BSI) and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) to provide a platform for increasing the awareness use and understanding of standards and standardisation in the UK.

This research quantifies the impact of standards on the success of UK business of all types.

As the national standards body for the UK, the British Standards Institution plays an important role in enabling innovation and technology transfer within national and international markets. This creation of synergies is found to accelerate the speed to market of products and services which allows businesses to keep ahead of the game in an ever-changing marketplace.

For many years business opinion has tended to divide regarding the genuine impact of standards. While many firms have embraced standards as a valuable tool for strategic management, others argue that their presence has acted as a halt on business freedom and competitiveness.

For that reason I commend to Parliament this research and urge UK industry to make business standards a boardroom issue in order to provide tangible assurances of progress across all aspects of commerce.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Alistair Darling): I have today published my Department's annual report for 2005. Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the Library of both Houses.

The report sets out the Department's activities and achievements over the last year. It also describes the Department's future expenditure plans for the period of the spending review 2004.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. David Blunkett): I am today able to announce the publication of the Department for Work and Pensions departmental report (Cm 6539). The report provides details of the Department's performance in 2004–05 against its public service agreement targets and sets out the Department's expenditure plans for 2005–06 to 2007–08. The report has been placed in the Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 21 June 2005

DEFENCE

Trafalgar 200

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): The Royal Navy will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson with a special programme of events in Portsmouth and the Solent between 28 June and 3 July, and then in London and Portsmouth over the anniversary weekend 21–23 October. A wreath will be laid off Cape Trafalgar on 21 October, the actual anniversary, and there will be commemorations in Gibraltar in late October.

The Royal Navy's Trafalgar 200 programme forms part of the Trafalgar festival which is at the heart of the SeaBritain 2005 initiative sponsored by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. SeaBritain 2005 aims to raise the profile of the United Kingdom's maritime interests. The Trafalgar 200 programme of events will also strengthen the Royal Navy's maritime partnerships, help develop interoperability and build on multinational maritime cooperation. The Trafalgar 200 programme provides a major vehicle for the Ministry of Defence to promote public awareness and support for defence in 2005.

The Trafalgar 200 programme starts with an international fleet review in the Solent on 28 June 2005 in the presence of HM the Queen, members of the royal family, Ministers and Heads of foreign navies. Some 160 vessels, comprising Royal Navy, foreign warships and auxiliaries, merchant ships and tall ships, will take part in the review, which will conclude with a flypast of 50 aircraft. In total, 36 navies are expected to send ships, with 57 heads of navies in attendance. There will be a Son et Lumiére on the evening of 28 June 2005 in the approaches to Portsmouth harbour which will illustrate an early 19th century sea battle. While not a full re-enactment of Trafalgar, the show includes aspects of the battle, notably Admiral Lord Nelson's death at the height of the action; it will involve some of the world's finest tall ships. On the 29 June an international drumhead ceremony will be held on Southsea common in the presence of HRH the Duke of York, accompanied by HRH Prince Michael of Kent. The ceremony will honour maritime veterans of all nations and commemorate those who have given their lives in conflict and service in the Armed Forces. Finally, and international festival of the Sea will be held from 30 June to 3 July 2005 in HM naval base Portsmouth. In addition to a significant number of the warships and tall ships taking part in the fleet review, a substantial number of smaller vessels will join the festival which will be open to ticket-paying members of the public. The festival will showcase Britain's armed forces with displays by members of all three services.

The programme of events in the autumn will commence with wreaths being laid off Cape Trafalgar and at Nelson's tomb in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral on 21 October 2005, the 200 anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson. As is customary, a service will also be held onboard HMS Victory in Portsmouth. A special VIP dinner will be held in HMS Victory on the evening 21 October 2005. On the morning of 23 October the sea cadets will conduct their annual parade in Trafalgar square and in the afternoon a national service of commemoration for all those who fought at Trafalgar will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral, in the presence of senior members of the royal family. In the evening we plan to hold a public celebration of Britain's maritime heritage ("past, present and future") in the special setting of Trafalgar square.

Although not formally part of the Trafalgar 200 programme in the United Kingdom, events are also planned to take place in Gibraltar during the weekend of 28 to 30 October to commemorate the close historic links between Gibraltar and Admiral Lord Nelson's victory. In addition to a service of remembrance at the Trafalgar cemetery, there will be a Nelson exhibition, beating retreat and a Royal Navy ceremonial guard mount at the Governor's residence. The Royal Navy has also been invited to exercise their freedom of the city privileges.

Lying at the heart of SeaBritain 2005, the Trafalgar 200 programme represents an exciting and high profile series of events, funded through a combination of public funding and commercial sponsorship and revenue, commemorating our greatest naval hero and a major milestone in maritime history. The last fleet review by Her Majesty the Queen was held to mark the Silver Jubilee in 1977. There have been international festivals of the sea in Portsmouth in 1998 and 2001.

Armed Forces (Redundancy)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig): Current redundancy compensation terms for members of the regular armed forces have remained largely unchanged since the early 1970s and do not reflect changes to re-employment prospects or in wider Government policy for this area. Nor do they take account of the changes in benefit structure made under the new armed forces pension scheme. They have therefore been reviewed, working closely with the single services and I now wish to announce the outcome of that review.

The new terms are designed to compensate fairly those whose careers are prematurely shortened as a result of redundancy, and are to be used as part of any planned restructuring of the armed forces as announced by the Secretary of State for Defence from time to time. The Ministry of Defence has two schemes which provide normal early-leavers' benefits for the regular armed forces—one relating to the 1975 pension scheme and one to reflect the changes made to the value of mid-career benefits with the introduction of the new 2005 scheme. Despite the differences between these two schemes, the redundancy packages for each scheme will be broadly comparable.

The new terms will continue to be made up of a one-off tax-free lump sum which, for those serving until or beyond mid-career, will be supplemented with an immediate pension paid under the armed forces pension scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) or income paid under the 2005 early departure scheme. The size of the lump sum and of the annual pension or income stream will, as now, vary according to length of service and pay. The 2005 terms will apply to all new entrants from 6 April 2005, but from 6 April 2006 for those who were in service on 5 April 2005 and who decide to transfer to the new pension scheme. The existing terms, as set out in AFPS 75, will remain unchanged until 31 March 2008 when the current drawdown in service manpower announced in July 2004 by the then Secretary of State is due to complete. They will then be replaced by new terms which, in particular, will defer the point at which the current very early immediate pension is paid. This can currently be paid from age 30 but in future only a lump sum will be paid at this very early age. To ease the transition, the replacement terms for AFPS 75 will be phased in over a five-year period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2013, after which the final terms will apply.

The new arrangements will provide the armed forces with cost-effective arrangements for managing any major drawdown in the level of service manpower and are expected to meet fully the manning needs of the armed forces. Although less valuable in a number of respects than the existing terms, they remain generous by wider standards, as befits the special demands of a career in the armed forces; they reflect changes in wider Government policy for public service schemes; and they are fair with respect to the relationship between level of compensation and length of service. Additional general information on the new arrangements is available on both the MOD's intranet and internet sites, while detail about the new terms will be made public when work on drafting the new rules has been completed.

I am today placing copies of the defence instructions and notices (DIN) on the new redundancy terms in the Library of the House. It is also being placed on the Ministry of Defence website at: www.mod.uk/issues/pensions/.

Omagh Battalion

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): As part of our normal process of keeping force levels under review, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Chief Constable of the PSNI, has concluded that once the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borders come to the end of their tour as the Omagh resident battalion in August 2006, there is no requirement for them to be replaced.

This change is based on the GOC's and Chief Constable's assessment of the security situation, and reflects the increasing success of the PSNI in dealing with the threat from terrorism without routine military support. The Army remains committed to providing the support that the PSNI require to counter the threat from terrorism and to prevent potential public disorder. Consequently, we will continue to keep force levels in Northern Ireland under regular review.

HEALTH

Annual Report

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): The Department's annual report for 2005, Cm 6524, was laid before Parliament today.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Child Protection

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): In March 2004, the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland was asked by the then Secretary of State, my right hon. friend Paul Murphy MP, to conduct a review of current systems for carrying out checks on individuals working with children in Northern Ireland. I have received the review report, which will be published by the Commissioner today. Copies of the report will be placed in the libraries of the House.

The review was chaired by Ruth Lavery, a Barrister at Law, and was commenced following publication of the Bichard Inquiry report into the tragic events at Soham, which resulted in the deaths of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells. Taking into account the findings of Sir Michael Bichard, the aim of the review was to identify deficiencies in the present system and opportunities for reform, with a view to providing greater protections to children in Northern Ireland.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome this report, which supports and endorses the huge amount of work being taken forward across Government, both in Northern Ireland and in partnership throughout the United Kingdom. There have been a number of significant developments in Northern Ireland within the last number of months, including the commencement of legislation, the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Order in April 2005, which aims to strengthen safeguards for children and vulnerable adults. In addition, implementation of the Police Act later this year will create a statutory system of disclosing information, relevant to employment decision-making. The report makes 37 recommendations. Of the 36 that are targeted at government, 30 (more than 80 per cent.) have already been acted on, are being acted on, or are actively being considered. The remaining six will require either clarification or further consideration.

The Commissioner has also identified five important areas for action that he believes should guide and underpin the current reforms. In the main, they relate to establishing mechanisms or methods of ensuring that policy and legislation are translated effectively in practice. I am extremely grateful to the Commissioner for bringing forward this important work. I would like to pay tribute both to him and especially Ruth Lavery for her report. I can assure the House that these crucial issues will be taken fully into account as the Government deliver stronger safeguards to protect children.

I have agreed with the Commissioner that I will provide him with a written report on progress by government on all recommendations within three

months. I have also agreed that he will review implementation of the actions after 12 months. On a final point, it is my intention to appoint a Minister for Children from my ministerial team. The designated Minister will have responsibility for all issues affecting children in Northern Ireland, including child protection. I will ask the Minister for Children to keep me fully informed of progress on all of the vetting review recommendations.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jury Trials (Fraud)

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the Attorney General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"The Government have decided that after the summer recess it will seek affirmative resolutions from both Houses of Parliament in order to implement section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Section 43 made provision for serious and complex fraud trials to be conducted by a judge sitting without a jury. The provision can operate only where the judge is satisfied that the length or complexity of the trial is likely to make it so burdensome upon the jury that the interests of justice so require, and the Lord Chief Justice gives his approval.

This decision has been taken in the light of discussions at a seminar held in January of this year, following a commitment to further consultation that was given by the Government when the 2003 Act was passed, at which Opposition spokesmen, the judiciary, prosecuting authorities and the legal profession were amongst those represented. I am placing a record of the seminar proceedings in the Library of the House.

A protocol for dealing with lengthy trials, which was issued by the Lord Chief Justice on 22 March 2005, emphasises the need for robust and well-informed case management to enable the court to focus on the real issues, and it is hoped that this approach will contribute towards reducing the length of trials. The Government consider, however, that better case management will not of itself be sufficient to confine the duration of the most complex serious fraud trials within reasonable bounds, or prevent such trials from imposing an intolerable burden upon the jury.

The Government therefore propose to take the action necessary to obtain parliamentary approval for the implementation of section 43, with a view to bringing it into force in January 2006."

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 22 June 2005

DEFENCE

Naval Recruiting and Training Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Don Touhig): Subsequent to a proposal by the agency's owner, the Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, I have today set the 2005–06 key targets for the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency (NRTA) as follows:

To deliver RN personnel to the trained strength (or to other training organisations), to the required quality standard, within 5 per cent. variance from the tasked requirement.

To deliver RM recruits to within 9 per cent. variance from the tasked requirement.

To maintain success rates of 95 per cent. in career training (including targeted employment modules) and 97 per cent. in examined pre-joining training.

To increase the trained strength of the Royal Naval Reserve to 2010.

To reduce the cost of the NRTA HQ overhead to 96 per cent. of the 2003–04 baseline figure.

To achieve net benefits of £15.9 million in FY 2005–06 from the partnering arrangement with Flagship Training Ltd.

To improve to 102 the index of performance in phase 2 and phase 3 training delivered to Army and Royal Air Force personnel in the Defence College of Electro-Mechanical Engineering.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Local Area Agreements

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today announcing the rollout of local area agreements (LAAs) to all local areas in England. LAAs are three-year agreements that set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central Government, represented by the Government office, and a local area, represented by the local authority and local strategic partnership (LSP) and other key partners at local level. LAAs represent a new approach to improve co-ordination and partnership working between central Government and local authorities and their partners, working through the LSP.

LAAs were piloted with 21 areas last year. Some 66 areas have been selected to negotiate their LAA this year. These agreements will come into effect in April 2006. These areas are listed in a table entitled "Local area agreements—areas participating in summer 2005". Of these, 13 will be able to operate a single LAA pot. These areas are listed in a table entitled "Single pot local area agreement". Single pot LAAs will have freedom to spend any funding on the achievement of any of the outcomes that have been agreed as part of the LAA. All remaining areas will be eligible to agree LAAs during 2006–07 with an April 2007 start date.

Both tables "Local area agreements—areas participating in summer 2005" and "Single pot local area agreement" are available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the ODPM website: www.odpm.gov.uk.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh (Rural Electrification)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): On 7 June 2005, I approved a grant of £50 million for rural electrification in Bangladesh which will help to connect over one million households and businesses to electricity supplies in underserved areas of the country.

At present, only 25 per cent. of the rural population of Bangladesh has electricity and frequently the poor are left out. We will support a micro credit programme that will ensure that poorer people can afford the costs of connection and take up new income generating activities. The benefits of rural electricity include new jobs, better schools and health services and an improved quality of life.

The Rural Electrification Board, which will undertake the construction work, has an excellent reputation for efficiency and effectiveness. Local electricity cooperatives manage the service at the district level. The DFID programme will help improve their performance by funding training for directors and members.

Indonesia and Sri Lanka (Post-Tsunami Reconstruction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): Last week I visited Indonesia (Jakarta and Banda Aceh) and Sri Lanka (Colombo, Ampara in the east and Galle in the south) to track progress in post-tsunami reconstruction; assess our and the wider UK NGO response; and investigate the impact on peace processes.

Indonesia

Immediate humanitarian relief has been generally effective. The UK's contribution has helped to save lives by preventing disease, providing water and sanitation and temporary shelter. The UN, NGOs and military are widely considered to have done a good job in the first few weeks as the enormity of the disaster became clear. But the problems caused by sheer scale of the disaster, numbers of dead, the lack of NGO or UN staff on the ground in Banda Aceh before the tsunami due to the conflict and the logistical difficulties cannot be overstated.

The Government have reorganised so the transition from relief to reconstruction is led by the Aceh reconstruction agency (BRR). I discussed the scale of the reconstruction challenge with Mr. Pak Kuntoro Mangkusubroto (head of the BRR) and how donors can assist BRR's efforts to improve supplies, housing and infrastructure rebuilding amongst other areas, as well as measures to prevent corruption. The UK has provided approximately £7 million in support of BRR so far, and I announced a further £30 million to be made available from within the £65 million for reconstruction that we set aside in February.

After a break following the tsunami, the conflict has worsened with almost daily reports of fighting between GAM (the Free Aceh Movement) and Government forces. The tsunami has, however, helped to kick-start new negotiations facilitated by the Finnish Government. There are encouraging signs of progress. Through our presidency of the EU we will continue to support this process.

Sri Lanka

Much has been achieved by the relief effort so far that benefited from a huge and more immediate influx of NGO and international support: 30,000 transitional homes constructed so far; of 182 schools damaged, contracts have been signed to rebuild 176; 95 per cent. of children affected by the tsunami are now back at school; and roads, railways and electricity supplies (where they existed) have been restored. The major area lagging now we are in the recovery phase is livelihoods, which is being addressed now, with funds to rebuild and recapitalise the fishing industry (the main livelihood of those affected) and micro-credit becoming available, although coordination issues remain.

Broadly speaking the transition to reconstruction has begun in fuller force than in Indonesia. Industry is expected to have recovered by the end of the year. Reconstruction needs as identified by the international financial institutions are fully financed by donors, (expected cost $2 billion: pledges from donors and NGOs exceeding $3 billion). I have specifically requested assurances from Government that debt relief resources (including £41 million from the UK Government) and sufficient counterpart funding on the Government side be channelled through the budget and spent on tsunami-related reconstruction activities.

A major constraint to faster progress is the lack of land for permanently resettling tsunami displaced persons. There is a Government proposal to forbid any rebuilding within a designated "buffer zone" stretching 100–200 metres from the sea. I raised concerns over the robustness of the rationale for this with the Government of Sri Lanka, given the large number of family homes, schools and clinics within the zone, affecting more than 70,000 people. I received reassurances that the buffer zone will be implemented in a flexible way depending on local circumstances, and improved consultation mechanisms are being put in place.

Inevitably assistance is reaching some communities more quickly than others, but the context of the conflict makes this hugely significant. In the north and east areas contested by the LTTE, much assistance is through NGOs and the UN and progress has been slower than in some parts of the south due in part to relatively little private sector funds and poor infrastructure. Perceptions that assistance is being inequitably delivered continue. For this reason, the joint mechanism (GoSL/LTTE/Muslim) that should facilitate bilateral donor funding to the north-east is hugely significant as providing the first framework for a long time within which dialogue between the parties could take place. Further work to finalise the agreement and to put it to a parliamentary debate is expected this month. If it can be established then the UK Government stand ready to provide support as needed.

Disaster reduction

The area remains disaster-prone. We have allocated £7.5 million for disaster risk reduction measures. This will support community level work to raise awareness of danger signals from early warning systems and ensure they know how to respond to best protect themselves and their families.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 23 June 2005

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Freedom of Information Act

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has made the following written ministerial statement.

"Today I have deposited copies of The Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on Implementation in Central Government January to March 2005 in the Libraries of both Houses".

This is the first quarterly bulletin produced by DCA monitoring of the performance of central Government and associated bodies under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Public Guardianship Office

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has made the following written ministerial statement.

"The following list sets out the key performance targets that have been set for the Public Guardianship Office for 2005–06.

KPI 1: To increase the satisfaction of its customers in the delivery of its services as measured by customer surveys throughout the year.

Targets:

To achieve an overall satisfaction rating of 75 per cent.

To reduce dissatisfaction amongst each of the PGO's different customer groups by 10 per cent.

KPI 2: To increase the proportion of effective visits by the Lord Chancellor's visitors.

Targets:

New clients

To visit all new clients within six months of the order appointing the receiver being sent and to initiate any necessary action arising from the visit within one calendar month.

To visit 10 per cent. of clients within 12–18 months of a short order direction.

Existing clients

To undertake visits to existing clients as follows:

10 per cent. of clients within 18 months of a case transfer direction;

annually where the chief executive of the PGO is the receiver;

a repeat visit later three years where the receiver is still in place;

a repeat visit when necessary based on recommendations made by a Lord Chancellor's visitor; and

other visits as directed by the Court of Protection or requested by the PGO.

In total, the PGO anticipates that these criteria will result in approximately 9,500 visits.

Effective visits

To achieve 80 per cent. effective visits over the year. An effective visit is one where:

the visit is carried out within six months of the request being made; and

recommended action is initiated within one calendar month of the visit.

To increase the sample of telephone interviews with receivers or persons present at the visit from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. by July 2005.

KPI 3: To maintain an effective system to collect and review accounts, and use this process to review the case management regime to ensure that it is meeting the needs of each customer and client.

Targets:

To collect 60 per cent. of accounts, in all cases where an account is properly due, within two calendar months of the accounting end date; 85 per cent. within four calendar months of the accounting end date; and 95 per cent. within six calendar months of the accounting end date.

To complete the review of, or to have requested further information for, 100 per cent. of accounts within 20 working days of receipt.

To complete the review of 75 per cent. of furthered on accounts (i.e. those where further information is needed) within 30 working days of the request for additional information.

No case will have two accounts outstanding unless the Court of Protection has directed otherwise.

KPI 4: To deliver an improved service to clients.

Targets:

Correspondence

To respond to:

60 per cent. of correspondence within five working days of receipt;

80 per cent. of correspondence within 10 working days of receipt; and

98 per cent of correspondence within 15 working days of receipt.

Release of funds

To work with receivers to ensure they have access to funds to support the client for a year at a time. Where requests for release of funds are made over and above this, PGO will give directions to the Court Funds Office (CFO), or dispatch directions to the receiver within five working days in 80 per cent. of cases and within 10 working days in 95 per cent. of cases; or explain why it cannot release funds.

Applications for Receivership

Providing it has all the appropriate forms and information required in support of an application, PGO will list a case for hearing and notify the applicant within 10 working days in 95 per cent. of cases.

The hearing date will be within 35 working days of the date the hearing was listed in 95 per cent. of cases.

After the hearing, PGO will notify applicants of the outcome of the hearing and request any further information the Court requires within five working days in 95 per cent. of cases.

PGO will issue orders within 10 working days in 95 per cent. of cases where all information and documents have been received.

Closing cases

Where a client dies and PGO has a complete application for final directions, PGO will prepare and dispatch directions to transfer assets to personal representatives within 15 working days in 80 per cent. of cases, within 20 working days in 98 per cent. of cases.

Enduring Powers of Attorney

PGO will register and return 98 per cent. of correctly lodged EPAs, where there are no objections, within five working days of the end of the statutory waiting period.

Accuracy of Orders

PGO will ensure that the level of orders returned with errors is less than 3 per cent.

Case Transfer to Short Order Regime

In 85 per cent. of cases identified for consideration for a short order regime, the case will be referred to the Court of Protection within 15 working days for a decision to be made. Where the court directs a transfer, initiating action will be effected within 10 days of the decision in 95 per cent. of cases.

KPI 5: To demonstrate improvements in efficiency in value for money terms by meeting a unit cost target for undertaking each case in each of the three business streams as follows:

Targets:

Enduring Powers of Attorney—£114 per case;

Appointing and Supervising Receivers—£540 per case; and

Receivership of Last Resort—£8,000 per case."

DEFENCE

Sexual Harassment (Armed Forces)

The Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid): The Chief of the Defence Staff and I have today signed an agreement with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) setting out measures to prevent and deal with sexual harassment in the armed forces.

We have been in discussion with the Equal Opportunities Commission for several months about this issue. The agreement is a result of these very positive discussions and commits us to review our policies and procedures in a rigorous time-frame

Our policies already make clear that harassment and bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. Nevertheless, we accept that cases of sexual harassment do occur in the armed forces and that more needs to be done to address this issue. Accordingly, we look forward to working with the Commission to achieve the outcomes and targets set out in the agreement.

A copy of the agreement will be deposited in the Library of the House and it will be published on the Department's internet site.

Call-Out of Reservists for Iraq

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): In line with our policy of employing reservists as an integral component of the armed forces, we shall shortly begin mobilising approximately 600 of them to replace existing reservists serving in support of our operations in Iraq (Op TELIC).

Reservists currently deployed in Iraq carry out a range of activities including medical support, force protection duties and providing individual reinforcements to units. We anticipate that most of these tasks will continue. The callout will, however, involve fewer Reservists than our previous callout for Op TELIC announced in December 2004 (which involved 900 Reservists), due to a reduced number of individual reinforcements to regular units, and the replacement of the reserve field hospital with a regular one.

We plan to issue the callout notices for Reservists in phases and aim to give individuals 28 days notice of call-up (other than for those who may volunteer to be mobilised at shorter notice). As is customary, to ensure that we successfully mobilise the required number, we will need to issue a greater number of callout notices than the actual requirement. So, while this announcement calls for the mobilisation of about 600 reservists, it is by no means certain that all 600 will be deployed in Iraq.

Mobilisation will be followed by a period of individual, pre-deployment and collective training, integration into receiving units, and then a short period of pre-deployment leave. Deployment to theatre will begin in mid-October. The majority of those called out can expect a deployed tour of six months and a total period of mobilisation, including post-tour leave, of about 10 months, though for a few it may be slightly longer.

I would emphasise that this callout is part of our routine management of UK forces deployed on Op TELIC. We continue to consider, with our partners in the multinational force, the levels and dispositions of forces required in Iraq in the months ahead, to build the capability and capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces and support the transitional Government of Iraq through the process leading to the creation of a new constitution and full democratic elections in December 2005.

The next roulement of regular UK forces in Iraq is due to take place during October and November this year. We will make a further announcement covering this roulement once the details have been finalised.

Defence Procurement Agency

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Five key targets have been set for the chief executive of the Defence Procurement Agency for the financial year 2005–06.

The first three key targets apply to all projects over £20 million which have passed their main gate approval but not yet achieved in service date (ISD). The fourth key target reflects the importance that the Department attaches to delivery of assets to the front-line. Key target 5 comprises three measures based on the utilisation of assets.

The Key Targets are:

Key Target 1: Key requirements compliance

Predicted achievement of customers' core requirements[1] for projects: 97 per cent.

[1]Around 10 core requirements per project are agreed between the DPA and MoD headquarters, defining the essential characteristics of the equipment/capability.

Key Target 2: Average in-year In Service Date slippage

Average in-year slippage of In Service Dates not to exceed 1.0 month.

Key Target 3: Average in-year cost growth

Average in-year cost variation not to exceed 0.6 per cent.

Key Target 4: Asset Deliveries

Achievement of planned in-year asset deliveries 90 per cent.

Key Target 5: Achievement of Planned Efficiency Measures

(i) Asset turnover in months	83
(ii) Assets delivered per £ of Operating Costs	£13.2
(iii) Assets produced per £ of Operating Costs	£23.16

Defence Aviation Repair Agency

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Key targets have been set for the chief executive of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency for the financial year 2005–06. The targets are as follows:

Key Target 1. Quality

To achieve less than 15 attributable major Customer Concerns annually, on average during the period covering the financial years 2004–05 to 2006–07.

Key Target 2. Business Performance and Efficiency

To achieve an annual Return on Capital Employed of at least 3.5 per cent.

Key Target 3. Business Sustainability

To achieve a closing Order Book of at least £180 million at the end of financial year 2005–06, which includes at least £80 million to be deliverable in the following year.

Key Target 4. Efficiency

To improve overall efficiency by at least 8 per cent.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Decent Homes

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): I am today announcing 61 schemes, involving 34 local authorities, that will ensure social rented homes meet minimum standards of decency, and boost provision of new social rented homes. These schemes should deliver over £3 billion of investment, of which around £1.8 billion will be levered in from the private sector. They will tackle over 125,000 non-decent homes, and create around 1,400 new social rented homes.

These new schemes will set up housing transfers, Arms Length Management Organisations or PFI projects.

Eleven schemes have been awarded places on the transfer programme. These schemes are in Aylesbury Vale, Chorley, Derwentside, Sefton, Selby, South Gloucestershire, Taunton Deane, Waveney, and Waverley, with partial transfers in Islington and Sheffield.

A further 33 schemes have had places on the transfer programme held open whilst the level of gap funding is agreed. These schemes are in Brent (South Kilburn), Cannock Chase, Hackney (Woodberry Down), Islington (Packington), Lambeth (Ashmole Estate and Bolney Meadow Estate), Lewisham (Excalibur TMO and Bankfoot and Bellingham), Liverpool, North Lincolnshire, Pendle, Rossendale, and Tower Hamlets (21 schemes).

Ten schemes have been awarded places on the Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) programme. These schemes are in Doncaster, Gloucester, Hackney, Lambeth, Newham, Southend, South Tyneside, Stockport, Wear Valley, and Sheffield, where an existing ALMO will be extended. Schemes in Hackney, Southend and Wear Valley have yet to have their allocations finalised.

Together, the seven ALMOs with confirmed allocations will increase investment in council housing by £342 million in 2006–07 to 2007–08.

Seven schemes have been awarded places on the Housing PFI programme. Three of these—in Manchester, Oldham, and Lewisham—will focus on refurbishing or replacing non-decent homes. Four of the PFI schemes—in Guildford, Weymouth and Portland, Woking, and Medway—will focus on delivering new social rented units. We are making around £500 million in PFI credits available for these schemes.

These schemes mark our continuing commitment to ensuring that all social sector tenants have the decent homes that they deserve, and places the decent homes strategy firmly at the heart of the sustainable communities agenda.

Home Loss Payments

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): Following the annual review, the Deputy Prime Minister will today lay regulations to update the home loss payment thresholds in section 30 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (as amended). Home loss payments are paid at a rate of 10 per cent. of the market value to owner-occupiers who are displaced from their homes as a result of compulsory purchase or certain housing orders. These are subject to maximum and minimum payments. Tenants receive a flat rate equal to the minimum payment to owner-occupiers.

With effect from 1 September 2005, the maximum payment to owner-occupiers displaced from their home will be increased from £34,000 to £38,000 and the minimum payment will be increased from £3,400 to £3,800. The flat-rate will be increased from £3,400 to £3,800.

The period of two months between laying the regulations and commencement will give acquiring authorities reasonable notice to revise their budgets for compensation. This is similar to the notice period given in previous years for revisions to the home loss payments thresholds.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Information Technology Organisation

The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Hazel Blears): The Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) is a non-departmental public body established as a body corporate under the Police Act of 1997. In January 2004, I commissioned an independent, end-to end review of PITO and its business

processes, including its role in the provision of information technology and communications services to the police service.

I am pleased to announce today the publication of the review's report. The review has provided a critical analysis of the most appropriate structure and organisation to provide information and communications technology to the police, through PITO and from other sources.

The review recommends that PITO should transfer its non-IT responsibilities and transform itself—either as a separate organisation or as a component of the National Policing Improvement Agency—to become a Police National ICT Group, with responsibility and accountability for ICT to the 43 forces in England and Wales. It recommends that this function should be owned by and professionally managed by the police service, with funding flowing from the police authorities, through the establishment of regional collaborations or combined police delivery groups.

The provision of high quality information and communications technology to the police and the criminal justice system is vital, not only to manage efficiency throughout the system, but also to deliver better equipped front line policing. The Government welcome the review's analysis of the issues we should address but I do not intend to implement its recommendations wholesale. I intend that those PITO responsibilities that support the core functions of the National Policing Improvement Agency, that were outlined in the White Paper on Police Reform, "Building Communities, Beating Crime" in November last year will be rationalised and will transfer to the agency, along with a wide range of functions currently discharged by other national bodies. The considerable value of this report will be its significant contribution to the planning now under way for the new agency.

Sentencing Guidelines Council

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Charles Clarke): The Sentencing Guidelines Council has today published its first annual report, jointly with the Sentencing Advisory Panel, giving details of the excellent work it has achieved since its creation in March 2004 and outlining its work plans for the next 12 months. Copies of the annual report have been placed in the Library of the House.

Sectors-Based Scheme Review

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Tony McNulty): I am today announcing the findings of the review of the Sectors-Based Scheme (SBS). The scheme, which currently has the status of a pilot, was introduced on 1 May 2003 and provided for the issuance of work permits for low skilled vacancies in the hospitality and the food-processing sectors. The scheme is quota based. The current quotas for 2004-05 are 6,000 permits for food processing and 9,000 permits for hospitality. The main aims of the scheme were to alleviate the recruitment difficulties in the relevant sectors by providing employers with a means of recruiting workers from outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

Following the decision to grant free movement of work to nationals of the new accession states and in light of the number of accession state nationals undertaking low-skilled work, we have undertaken a review of the SBS to establish whether there exists an ongoing need for it. In addition, the review has also assessed evidence of any immigration abuse in connection with the scheme. The aims of the review are in line with the Government's five-year immigration and asylum strategy, published on 7 February 2005. This contained a commitment to phase out the current low-skilled schemes in light of the additional labour now available from the new EU accession states and after consultation with the sectors.

The findings of the review of the SBS are based upon an extensive consultation with the sectors, which has included an employer questionnaire, as well as meetings with employers, sector representative bodies, trade unions and available management information. The review has looked at each sector separately and the main findings are:

Food Processing:

We have found that the SBS has operated satisfactorily in this sector and that there is a continuing need for the scheme. Employers have been able to use the scheme to meet labour shortages in those areas, particularly Northern Ireland, where tight labour markets and the unattractiveness of the work in question have resulted in a difficulty in recruiting resident labour. There is little evidence of abuse of the scheme in this sector. It does appear that workers admitted under the scheme to work in this sector have returned overseas after one year, with a view to participating again in the scheme, as was originally envisaged.

While employers in this sector have indicated a willingness to recruit workers from Accession states they have pointed to a difficulty in retaining workers who are free to engage in other, more attractive employment. The consistent message from employers in this sector has been that if the SBS were discontinued, they would face acute difficulties in recruiting the workforce they require without significantly increasing their costs. The likely consequence of their doing so would be that they would face closure. As such the current pilot scheme will be extended for a further 12 months before undergoing a further evaluation. Based upon current usage the annual quota for 2005-06 will be set at least 3,500 permits, but we will consult further with employers to establish the precise figure.

Hospitality sector:

By contrast, the findings of the review do not point to a compelling case for continuing to operate such a scheme for the hospitality sector. The review points to evidence of abuse of the scheme and a high level of employment of Accession nationals in this sector.

There is evidence of abuse of the scheme in relation to this sector. This includes numbers of entry clearance refusals on the basis of submission of fraudulent documentation or where, on examination, it is apparent that the individual does not meet the age criteria of the scheme. There is also evidence that third party representatives have submitted applications for SBS permits in respect of fictitious jobs or without the knowledge of the employer specified on the application form. There is, therefore, a concern that the scheme in this sector is being used as a means of facilitating illegal entry.

In addition, many participants in this scheme have been unable to satisfy immigration criteria designed to test their credibility as temporary entrants. It is a criterion of the scheme that entry clearance may be refused to the holder of an SBS permit if the entry clearance officer is not satisfied that the holder will return overseas upon the expiry of his permit. Many SBS participants in the hospitality sector presenting themselves to the visa issuing authorities have been unable to satisfy this test and hence many of the workers the employers have sought to recruit under the hospitality quota have not been admitted.

It is also apparent that the hospitality sector in general has been able to draw upon nationals of Accession states to meet labour shortages following expansion of the EU. The latest published figures for the worker registration scheme show that between 1 May 2004 and 31 March 2005, 42,070 Accession nationals registered to undertake employment in the hospitality sector. This represents 25.5 per cent. of the total number of registered workers and is to be contrasted with 8,665 permits issued under the SBS scheme. Retention of these workers appears to be less of an issue in this sector due to its preferred employment practices and the seasonal variance in demand of labour.

In view of the above, the consequences of discontinuing the scheme in relation to the hospitality sector in general do not appear to be acute as employers do appear to be drawing upon alternative sources of labour, such as nationals of the new accession states. Any adverse consequences on discontinuing the scheme for this part of the sector are outweighed by the risk of continuing abuse of the scheme.

Accordingly, the SBS hospitality quota will be terminated. This does not mean that employers in this sector will immediately cease to have the benefit of non-EEA workers with the specific skills that they require. As a transitional measure, we will continue to issue SBS permits under the existing quota for the hospitality sector until 31 July or until the current quota is exhausted, whichever is sooner. In addition, many of those admitted as the holder of a SBS permit issued under the current quota have permission to remain for several more months and may remain in employment here until they are due to leave. I should also emphasise that where employers in the hospitality sector require skilled workers from overseas, they may continue to apply for permits under the main work permit scheme.

Magic Mushrooms

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Paul Goggins): Section 21 of the Drugs Act 2005 will come into force on 18 July 2005. Section 21 has amended the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 so that any fungi containing psilocin or an ester of psilocin—commonly known as magic mushrooms—are controlled drugs. Psilocin is already a class A drug—fresh magic mushrooms will be class A too.

Magic mushrooms are a powerful hallucinogen and can cause real harm, especially to vulnerable people and those with mental health problems. The law has not been clear with regard to the status of fresh magic mushrooms and some have tried to exploit this apparent loophole. In the last two years there has been a sudden increase in the amount of magic mushrooms imported into the UK—HM Revenue and Customs estimate the imports for 2004 to be between 8–16,000 kilograms. The Government have acted to close the loophole by making clear that it will not allow the open sale of fresh magic mushrooms. It is now an offence to import, export, produce, supply, possess or possess with intent to supply magic mushrooms whatever form they are in, whether prepared or fresh. This is a clarification of the law not a reclassification. These measures received cross party support during the passage of the Drugs Bill through Parliament.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs agreed that the law on magic mushrooms would benefit from clarification. Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of the Council, wrote to me on 2 June stating that "Council members accepted entirely that there should not be easy access to hallucinogenic mushrooms" and "this was a sensible move to clarify the law".

During the Commons Committee stage of the Drugs Bill, the Government undertook to bring in regulations dealing with exceptions from the offence of possession in certain circumstances. The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2005 are being laid before Parliament today and are due to come into force on 18 July 2005. The regulations amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 to provide exceptions from the offence of possession of magic mushrooms. For example, a person will not be committing an offence of possession of magic mushrooms if the mushrooms are growing naturally and uncultivated on their premises.

Also to be laid at the same time is the Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2005. The Order is due to come into force on 18 July 2005 and confirms legally that magic mushrooms, like psilocin, are designated as having no recognised medicinal use.

Known suppliers and importers of magic mushrooms will be notified formally of the legal change as a precursor to commencement of the provisions on 18 July.

Copies of the Regulations and the Order will be placed in the Library. Other sections of the Drugs Act 2005 will come into force later in the year.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I have received the annual report for 2004–05 of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland which is being presented to Parliament today as a Command Paper.

Copies of the report are available form the Vote Office and Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statement

Monday 27 June 2005

NORTHERN IRELAND

Probation Board

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I have today published the Probation Board for Northern Ireland combined corporate plan 2005–08 and business plan 2005–06. The corporate plan sets out the long-term strategic goals for the board over the next three years and the business plan sets out the board's key objectives and performance targets for the coming year.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 28 June 2005

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fishing Industry (Strategy Unit Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I am pleased to announce the publication today of *Securing the Benefits*, the joint UK response to the March 2004 *Net Benefits* report from the Prime Minister's strategy unit on the future of the fishing industry in the UK. The latter report was commissioned by the Prime Minister after the state of cod stocks led to the introduction in 2003 of limitations on the time fishing vessels could spend at sea, and in turn to significant decommissioning of UK boats.

Securing the Benefits sets out how the fisheries' administrations in the UK intend to implement the strategy unit's recommendations for the creation of a profitable future for the fishing industry in a thriving marine environment. We have developed this response in close partnership with the fishing industry and other interested groups, and will maintain that partnership as we deliver the actions we have mapped out.

The strategy unit firmly recommended that we should declare a clear aim for the fisheries policy, and *Securing the Benefits* does this. Our over-arching aim is:

> "A fishing sector that is sustainable and profitable and supports strong local communities, managed effectively as an integral part of coherent policies for the marine environment."

Securing the Benefits then declares a number of key measures which the administrations are committed to taking forward together at EU, national and regional level, including:

> on the common fisheries policy, seeking simpler rules and stronger focus on regional management, and helping members of regional advisory councils to maximise their contribution to the councils' work;
>
> making more use of fishermen's information in the assessment of fish stocks;
>
> developing on a regional basis a shared understanding with the fishing industry of what is needed to enable the different parts of the fleet to be profitable, considering where relevant the need for further selective decommissioning;
>
> improving arrangements for quota management in the UK, for example to provide greater clarity about the ownership of quota. This should help businesses plan for the future;
>
> using grants to help the fishing industry apply to the Marine Stewardship Council or other organisations for certification that particular fisheries are sustainable.

Securing the Benefits also notes some measures which the individual UK fisheries' administrations will be taking on their own account. The key measures being adopted by Defra in respect of England include:

> establishing a Marine Fisheries Agency in October 2005. One early task for the agency will be to pilot the regional fisheries manager concept recommended in *Net Benefits*;
>
> developing provisions in the planned Marine Bill to integrate fisheries into wider marine management, and considering as part of this the potential for a marine agency;
>
> continuing the Fisheries Science Partnership, so as to increase co-operation and mutual respect between fishermen and scientists, and the benefits that flow from that.

Defra will also be publishing its own paper in a few weeks to set out in more detail its plans for taking forward the measures set out in *Securing the Benefits* as well as other fisheries issues.

The measures we are announcing will build the economic, social and environmental aims of sustainable development into our approach to fishing. *Securing the Benefits* sets out a balanced and responsible approach to taking forward the strategy unit's recommendations, and I look forward to working with all concerned to implement it.

Copies of the response have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

FCO Response to the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Jack Straw): Following the tsunami in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) launched its largest ever operation to provide consular assistance to British nationals. The FCO provided an immediate and targeted response, with excellent commitment from staff, but given the sheer scale of the incident—triggered by the second largest earthquake on record—and the number of countries affected, FCO resources were stretched. In a relatively small number of cases, British nationals did not receive the level of service that we would normally have wished to provide.

During February and March 2005, the FCO carried out an internal review of our consular response. The emerging findings of this review were published as part of the FCO's memorandum to the Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Committee on 9 March 2005. The Committee made copies of the memorandum available to all Members of Parliament. In the debate following my statement to the House of Commons on 22 March concerning the tsunami, I undertook to make the final conclusions of the internal review known to the House.

The conclusions of the internal review are set out in the form of a short summary of findings and a list of urgent and other recommendations copies of which I have today arranged to be placed in the Library of the House.

The recommendations are both for the consular directorate in London and for our posts overseas. The purpose of the internal review was to examine the FCO's overall response to the tsunami and identify those areas where better structures, equipment or preparation would have helped us to react more effectively. The review focused on the immediate response to the tsunami and dealt with the work of the FCO only and not of other Government Departments. The National Audit Office is currently examining the overall governmental response to the tsunami crisis, including the role of the FCO, in their review of consular services, due to be published by the end of the year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 29 June 2005

TREASURY

Financial Services Authority

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Ivan Lewis): The annual report 2004–05 of the Financial Services Authority has today been laid before Parliament. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report forms a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Financial Services Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and assesses the performance of the Financial Services Authority over the past 12 months against its statutory objectives.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

The National Archives

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): The following key performance indicators have been set for the national archives.

KPI 1: Efficiency

KPI 1 A: To ensure that the unit cost of selecting and preserving the public records per metre does not rise above £97.

KPI 1 B: To ensure that the unit cost per information transaction with customers onsite and online does not exceed £4.04.

KPI 2: Quality of service

C: To achieve the public service standard targets for the national archives as follows:

(i) To make newly opened records and their catalogues available to users in accordance with specified time targets.

(ii) To answer 98.5 per cent. of written correspondence which is not a freedom of information, data protection or environmental information regulations enquiry, within 10 working days.

(iii) To deliver 90 per cent. of records requested by users for consultation in the reading rooms within 30 minutes on weekdays and 45 minutes on Saturdays.

(iv) To supply 98.5 per cent. of record copying orders in accordance with the specified targets and standards.

(v) To answer 85 per cent. of telephone calls within 20 seconds.

D: To carry out three onsite satisfaction surveys and to achieve assessments of good or excellent from 90 per cent. of those expressing a view.

KPI 3: Electronic service delivery

KPI 3: To develop direct digital access to popular records so that 165,000 digital record images are delivered to customers.

KPI 4: Social inclusion

KPI 4: To raise an awareness of TNA's holdings among under-represented groups in our user profile by means of a rigorous social inclusion programme, the chief targets of which are:

(i) To begin the implementation of the Moving Here project, "Routes to the Future", which will capture and record the experiences of first and second generation settlers in England.

(ii) To implement the Government and people: the interaction of the state with the citizen operational selection policy in all relevant records selection work in departments.

KPI 5: Raising the public profile of the national archives

KPI 5: To raise the profile of the national archives with the general public by achieving the following targets:

(i) To implement year one actions in our new three-year marketing strategy, by launching a national promotional campaign to raise awareness of the national archives and its services; ensuring the specification of the new search engine is consistent with user needs; increasing digitisation of visual material and making substantial additions to our network of licensed internet associate services.

(ii) To grow the website user base by a 15 per cent. increase in numbers of users visiting the website more than once, taken from respondents replying to at least two surveys on TNA's web services.

KPI 6: Records management

KPI 6: To continue to support the development of effective records management across Government by achieving the following targets:

(i) To monitor and influence the effectiveness of records management in central Government through the introduction of an integrated compliance regime with particular reference to the code of practice introduced under section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

(ii) To develop, in collaboration with other Government Departments, a statement of requirements towards the survival of digital records.

More information on these and other key targets is published in the national archives' corporate and business plans.

Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has made the following statement in the other place today.

"I am pleased to announce the start of the recruitment campaign to identify the inaugural judicial appointments and conduct ombudsman. The ombudsman will investigate judicial appointment complaints (including magistrate appointment complaints) and the handling of judicial conduct complaints.

The creation of the office of the judicial appointments and conduct ombudsman follows the passing of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 earlier this year".

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Local Government (Beacon Scheme)

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): Today we have placed on the ODPM website a copy of the application brochure for round seven of the beacon scheme. Paper copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be sent in early July to all authorities eligible. We are publishing an electronic copy in advance to give authorities as early as possible, information that will inform decisions to apply. A copy of the brochure can be found at: www.odpm.gov.uk/beaconcouncils.

The beacon scheme continues to be a popular, successful method of celebrating and promoting best practice in local government. In the first six rounds of the scheme, 275 beacon awards have been made in 59 service themes. These beacons have then disseminated their excellence to other authorities through learning events and open days co-ordinated by the Improvement and development agency. Round Six Beacons continue to disseminate their work now.

We are inviting all authorities (other than those rated "poor" under the CPA who are not eligible to apply) that believe they have achieved excellence in one or more of this year's beacon themes to apply for beacon status. We particulary encourage district and smaller best value authorities to apply so that their excellence can be recognised and shared with others. Round seven themes for which we are now inviting applications are:

Culture and Sport for Hard to Reach Groups

Delivery of Quality Services through Procurement

Early Intervention (Children at Risk)

Improving Housing Services by Involving Tenants

Improving Rural Services: Empowering Communities

Positive Youth Engagement (in the Community and Democratic Process)

Road Safety

Transforming the Delivery of Services Through Partnerships

Valuing People

Waste and Recycling

Applications are invited by 5 September 2005. Beacon authorities will be announced in early 2006.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Woodland

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jim Knight): I am pleased to advise that we have today have today published a policy statement for England's native and ancient woodland. This has been prepared jointly by DEFRA and the Forestry Commission England.

This policy represents a significant change in emphasis for forestry activities in England by placing native and ancient woodland at the heart of forestry policy. The policy sets out a vision where "ancient woodland, veteran trees and other native woodland is adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and is providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to society".

Taken together, native and ancient woodland makes up around half of England's total woodland area. They contain numerous protected and priority species, provide excellent educational and recreational opportunities and are a source of quality renewable resources in the form of hardwood timber and other products.

The policy will make a significant contribution to several Government targets and policies, in particular the Government's biodiversity strategy for England, and will also help fulfil international commitments and statutory obligations. The Forestry Commission will work in close alignment with natural England partners to ensure effective and coherent delivery of the policy, including a simplified system of support for landowners.

Copies of the policy statement will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The policy statement can also be viewed on the Forestry Commission's website at: www.forestry.gov.uk.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

UK Security Advisory Team (Caribbean)

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): The official launch of the United Kingdom Security Advisory Team (UKSAT) took place in Antigua on 9 June 2005, with addresses from the hon. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and John White, British High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean. Sir James Carlisle, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, and other senior representatives from the region were also present.

The UKSAT project supports delivery of FCO's strategic priority 2: protection of the UK from illegal immigration, drug trafficking and other international crime, and strategic priority 8: security and good governance of the UK's Overseas Territories. The FCO is providing £1.5 million of funding for the project in 2005–06. The Eastern Caribbean is a key transit point for cocaine from Latin America destined for the UK; through UKSAT, we are seeking further to develop our law enforcement cooperation and effectiveness in the region.

UKSAT will work in partnership with the Regional Security System (RSS) and the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories (COTs) to enhance law enforcement capacity in the RSS countries and the COTs. This will be achieved through training, advice and mentoring to strengthen actions against drug trafficking and other organised criminal groups operating in the Caribbean.

The team will evolve over the next three years to consist of 14 personnel based in RSS countries: eight UK staff will include officers from HM Revenue and Customs and Royal Navy and six recruited regionally. UKSAT will work closely with the RSS security screening programme to tackle corrupt practices and integrity issues in regional law enforcement

organisations. In addition, UKSAT programmes will be delivered elsewhere in the region, notably Jamaica and Trinidad.

As part of UKSAT, the Maritime Training Unit in Antigua will, in conjunction with the RSS Training Unit, continue to provide training and advice in support of maritime law enforcement activities in the region.

This practical training commitment reflects the close cooperation which exists at all levels between Her Majesty's Government and Governments of the Caribbean nations and a shared commitment to tackle the problems of security and organised crime in the region, which affects both the Caribbean nations themselves and the UK. It is also of particular benefit to the CQTs in helping them to meet their maritime law enforcement needs and in providing them with a sound basis to generate sustainable and effective operational capabilities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Tony McNulty): I am pleased to announce the publication of the independent Complaints Audit Committee (CAC) annual report for the year 2004–05. Copies are available in the Library of the House and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) website.

This is the CAC's 11th report. Their role is to monitor the effectiveness of IND's procedures for investigating complaints about the conduct and efficiency of staff in IND. Their findings are extremely valuable to the organisation.

The annual report highlights a number of areas where IND could improve its customer service, supported by a number of recommendations. IND will use these recommendations to help inform their wider change and reform strategy, one of the key elements being to make IND a more customer focused organisation.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Hazel Blears): I am announcing today statistics relating to anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs).

An ASBO is a civil order which protects the community from behaviour that has caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator.

ASBOs were introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and have been available since April 1999.

ASBOs can be issued to anyone aged 10 years or over. They impose restrictions on the behaviour of individuals who have behaved in an anti-social way and protect communities from often longstanding and highly intimidating activity.

Breach of an ASBO is a criminal offence and can lead to custody. The maximum penalty for breach of an ASBO is five years imprisonment or a fine of up to £5,000 for an adult offender.

The Home Office is notified by all courts of ASBOs issued.

Data on the number of ASBOs issued is updated quarterly. New figures for the period up to December 2004 are now available. These figures show that for the period between April 1999 and December 2004 the number of ASBOs issued (as reported to the Home Office) was 4,649. The number of ASBOs issued in the quarter October to December 2004 is 17 per cent. of the total number of ASBOs issued over all quarters and indicates that ASBO numbers for the latest quarter are double those of the same quarter last year (October to December 2003—364 ASBOs).

Of those ASBOs issued, 52 per cent. were to adults and 44 per cent. to juveniles (4 per cent. of ASBOs are age unknown).

Some 55 per cent. were orders on application, 45 per cent. were orders on conviction.

I intend to make a similar statement to the House every quarter to provide an update on ASBOs statistics.

I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a briefing note containing information about ASBOs and the ASBOs statistics issued today.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Inland Fisheries

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): Copies of the inland fisheries annual report of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure for 2003 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The document provides details of the Department's activities to conserve, protect and develop salmon and inland fisheries under the provisions of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, as amended and includes statistical information and income and expenditure details for the 2003–04 financial year.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Fiddler's Ferry Power Station

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): I have today given consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to Scottish and Southern Energy's application to construct and operate flue gas desulphurisation plant at its Fiddler's Ferry coal-fired power station near Warrington. Planning permission has also been given subject to the inclusion of 52 conditions agreed with Warrington borough council.

Coal and other fossil fuels remain vital ingredients in our energy mix, but we need to reduce the impact that burning them has on the environment. Fitting flue gas desulphurisation plant at Fiddler's Ferry is a welcome step forward and will help reduce the damaging effects of acid rain.

Inward Investment

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Alan Johnson): With my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I am

pleased to inform the House that UK Trade and Investment announced today, at its launch of the UK Inward Investment 2004–05 report, that there were 1,066 direct investments in the UK by foreign owned companies between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005. This is an increase of 31 per cent. on the year. Among business sectors, the largest number of projects were in IT, followed by software, pharma and biotech. Total jobs figures were up 26 per cent. to 75,043 of which 39,592 were new jobs (up 55 per cent. on the previous year) and 35,451 safeguarded jobs (up 5 per cent. on 2002–03)

This performance reflects the confidence which companies around the world continue to show in the business climate in the UK. The number of new projects has increased by 49 per cent. from 339 in 2003–04 to 506 in 2004–05, while mergers/acquisitions and joint ventures were up 41 per cent from 187 in 2003–04 to 264 in 2004–05. Expansions by existing investors were up 3 per cent., from 285 in 2003–04 to 296 in 2004–05.

The competition is fierce. But we will not allow our position as market leader in Europe to make us complacent. UKTI will further strengthen and sharpen its operations in priority markets and the Government will continue to ensure that the UK provides economic growth and stability and an innovative climate to attract investment.

I am arranging for a copy of the UK Inward Investment 2004–05 report to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (Rossendale Borough Council)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Rossendale borough council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04, Rossendale borough council administered some £10 million in housing benefits, about 55 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. The council was not at standard in any of the seven functional areas of performance standards. However, since August 2003 it had made and sustained improvements in a number of areas. It had processed claims faster, improved the standard of verification of claims, prosecuted fraudsters and publicised its counter-fraud efforts.

However, there were significant weaknesses in strategic management, project management and planning arrangements, management of counter-fraud operations, and the recovery of overpayments.

Inspectors found errors in recording the time taken to process new claims that caused performance to be understated. Claims were in fact being processed in 46 days on average between April and December 2004 compared with the council's previously reported performance of 55 days. Performance had improved to the extent that for the month of December 2004 claims were processed within an average of 36 days.

Internal auditors and the Audit Commission had previously identified some of the weaknesses described in the BFI report. However, the council had not implemented their recommendations and audit findings were not reported to members and senior officers.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to the BFI's findings.

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (South Cambridgeshire District Council)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on South Cambridgeshire district council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2002–03, South Cambridgeshire district council administered some £15.5 million in housing benefits, about 21 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. BFI assessed the council against the performance standards for counter-fraud and the internal and external audit elements of strategic management and found that the council was not at standard. Strategically there were some areas of good practice, including a clear corporate vision, but this was not fully reflected in operational plans, policies or local targets.

The council gave a high priority to combating benefit fraud. The fraud team was well trained and experienced and had been successful in securing several high profile prosecutions.

However, the report notes serious concerns over some of the council's working practices, including weaknesses in management checking and failure to use management information. Authorised officers' powers were used routinely to obtain information from third parties, but no monitoring of these activities was undertaken to ensure compliance with legislation, and several breaches of these powers were identified.

There were also breaches of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in several of the interviews under caution that BFI examined. Other evidence indicated that the council was not fully complying with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to the BFI's findings.

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (Hart District Council)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Hart district council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04 Hart district council administered some £7.8 million in housing benefits, about 34 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. The BFI's follow-up inspection found that the council was not at standard in any of the seven functional areas of performance standards and was providing a poor level of service overall.

The council had failed to fully implement over 80 per cent. of the recommendations made following the first BFI inspection in 2000. This failure led to weak performance in key areas including customer services and overpayments in particular.

The council's service to its customers was poor, due mainly to a limited telephone service, an out of date housing benefits claim form and confusing and inaccurate decision letters. While the council was reporting that it was processing new claims for housing benefits in 23 days, against the standard of 36 days, some claims were being decided with insufficient evidence.

A lack of management checks and insufficient overpayments training meant that the council unnecessarily created overpayments. It also incorrectly claimed subsidy for overpayments caused by local authority error and only recovered 14 per cent. of overpayments in 2003–04.

This inspection found a number of improvements in the council's counter-fraud work, including correctly applying sanctions in line with the council's policies.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to the BFI's findings

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (Mid-Suffolk District Council)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on mid-Suffolk district council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04, mid-Suffolk district council administered some £6.6 million in housing benefits, about 29 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure. In the final quarter of 2003–04 the council was taking 96 days on average to process new claims for housing benefits against the standard of 36 days. This placed it in the bottom 15 per cent. of local authorities for reported performance.

BFI found that during 2003–04 the council had introduced a new benefits IT system, recruited benefits managers and addressed other resourcing issues in the benefits service. Reported claims processing performance dipped in the period following the introduction of the new benefits IT system. However, a recovery plan was agreed and the backlog of work was managed impressively and cleared between April and October 2004.

This was reflected in a dramatic improvement in the speed of processing new claims, to 29 days by October 2004. Verification of claims was also being undertaken to a high standard. The council acknowledged that the improved performance was achieved at the expense of management assurance and indicated that it intended to implement improvements in assurance as a priority. Mid-Suffolk district council also needs to develop procedural guidance and structure its approach to training staff.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to the BFI's findings.

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (Gosport Borough Council)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Gosport borough council was published today and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2003–04 Gosport borough council administered some £15.1 million in housing benefits, about 34 per cent. of its gross revenue expenditure.

Gosport borough council had made significant improvements in the time taken to process new claims and was now taking an average of 25 days although to some extent this improvement had been achieved at the expense of quality.

Weaknesses in management checking and poor reporting of performance failed to provide Members or senior officers with adequate assurance about true levels of performance. This was compounded by a failure to monitor the implementation of audit recommendations.

Poor publicity and failure to assess the needs of working customers and ethnic minority groups limited access to the service. The requirements of race relations legislation had not been fully met. Failure to record all customer complaints was a particular concern.

The council's classification of overpayments was incorrect in some instances and this calls into question the accuracy and validity of the 2004–05 subsidy claim.

An effective counter-fraud team used an intelligence-led system that maximised the time, training and expertise of its investigators and led to an increase in the volume of sanctions administered. However, BFI were concerned by the limited adherence to guidance in the council's own prosecution policy when a sanction was administered.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is now considering the report and may ask the council for its proposals in response to the BFI's findings.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 30 June 2005

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Broadcasting Courts

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. and noble Friend, the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has made the following written ministerial statement in the other place today, 30 June 2005:

> "My Department is publishing a summary of the responses to my consultation on broadcasting court proceedings today, 30th June 2005. Copies of the summary have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses."

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Information Sharing Databases (Children's Services)

The Minister for Children and Families (Beverley Hughes): I have today placed copies of the Government's response to consultation on recording practitioner details for potentially sensitive services and recording concern about a child or young person in the Libraries of both Houses.

Section 12 of the Children Act 2004 provides for the establishment of information sharing databases (or indexes). The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, announced at Lords report stage of the Children Bill in July 2004 that the Government would hold a public consultation on three issues related to the operation of the information sharing indexes under section 12 of the Children Act 2004:

> recording practitioner details for potentially sensitive services on the index;
>
> access by authorised users to practitioner details once recorded; and
>
> recording the fact of a concern on the index.

The consultation ran from 27 October 2004 to 19 January 2005.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Sustainable Development Indicators

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Mr. Elliot Morley): Following the Prime Minister's launch of the UK Government sustainable development strategy "Securing the Future" in March this year, we have today published baseline assessments of the indicators with which we will monitor progress. These are contained in the statistical publication "Sustainable Development Indicators in your Pocket 2005".

This handy, accessible booklet presents 68 indicators through which we can monitor our success in delivering against key priorities within the strategy: Sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy. Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement, and sustainable communities. Twenty of the indicators are shared with the devolved administrations within our shared framework for sustainable development "One future—different paths".

The UK is already a leader in measuring and communicating its progress to deliver sustainable development. This new set of indicators and new booklet builds further on this. It is hoped that we will reach a wide audience and through the booklet help to promote sustainable development.

Copies of the booklet will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Liam Byrne): My noble Friend the Minister of State, Lord Warner, has made the following written ministerial statement.

The report of the strategic review of ambulance services, led by Peter Bradley CBE, national ambulance adviser, is published today. The Department of Health supports the review's conclusions and will now take forward a programme of work to support the national health service in implementing the main recommendations. The Department will consult further on the implementation of some of the recommendations.

Copies of the review have been placed in the Library.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Construction Industry Training Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Angela E. Smith): I am pleased to announce the publication of the Construction Industry Training Board annual report and accounts for the 2003–04 financial year. This document is now available in the Library.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Coal Health Compensation Scheme

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): The House will be aware of allegations that have been made in *The Times* in the last few days about potential fraud in the handling of coal health compensation claims. I wish to make a statement.

These schemes are a major priority for the Government. To date over £2.6 billion has already been paid to former miners, their widows and families. Over 700,000 claims are being processed in what is a major delivery exercise.

It is also important to understand that the Department is acting in respect of the schemes under the jurisdiction of the High Court. This is because the schemes are the result of group litigation and delivery is overseen by judges who are still in charge of the cases.

The matters which the police are currently investigating arise from discussions which my Department had with the Law Society which in turn led to the discovery of information which the Law Society referred to the South Yorkshire police. A full criminal investigation is now underway and we are in close touch with the Police.

No charges have, however, yet been made.

The House will understand that in the circumstances I am unable to comment on the nature of the police investigations. I do, however, wish to make it very clear that there is nothing in the matters which are being investigated to suggest that there is any fraud against claimants. Nor is it a matter of the UDM having a preferential agreement; they do not. The investigation is focused solely on issues related to the costs of handling claims and not the payment of compensation to claimants.

I have decided, however, to take a number of immediate steps:

my Department has today written to the UDM seeking a complete list of claims which have been submitted through the UDM. That will enable us to ensure that any potential fraud is capped.

we have invited the UDM to set out what immediate actions they intend to take in respect of the individuals subject to investigation.

I have asked the chief constable of South Yorkshire police to press ahead with the investigation with all speed and assured him of the Department's full co-operation.

we have contacted the judges involved in the schemes to keep them fully informed of what we are doing.

we have written to the Law Society asking for an urgent report on the issues they have been considering on double charging by solicitors, although recognising that double charging is not the subject of the fraud investigations.

I must stress that I regard these as preliminary steps. I am fully prepared to take further actions as necessary. For example I have certainly not ruled out the option of suspending the operation of the UDM contract while the police inquiries continue. I have therefore asked officials and our claim handlers to assess what impact such action might have on the schedule for the payment of claims.

I would ask the House, however, to note two points:

first, nothing I do now should inhibit or compromise the need for the police to carry out the inquiries;

secondly, I am very anxious to avoid taking any steps which could compromise the prompt payment of claims to applicants. The schemes are highly complex and it is not easy to make changes in the administrative arrangements without risking the introduction of delays—and we have to recognise that a number of those whose applications are being processed are both elderly and not in the best of health.

I will keep the House informed of developments.

TRANSPORT

Manchester Metrolink

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Derek Twigg): I have today given conditional approval to a scheme to refurbish Manchester Metrolink.

The scheme put forward by Greater Manchester passenger transport executive includes the renewal of existing tracks on the Bury to Altringham line and the purchase of eight new vehicles to reduce overcrowding on the Metrolink system.

The scheme will bring noticeable improvements in the quality of journeys for existing users of Manchester's Metrolink and offer an attractive alternative to those currently driving into the centre of Manchester.

Conditional approval demonstrates our support for the improvements. Providing costs and other details remain unchanged, we would expect to grant full approval in due course.

I am committing Government funding of up to £58 million towards the costs of the scheme, subject to full approval subsequently being granted. This funding is part of the £520 million which the Government have already pledged for the areas served by the Metrolink phase III proposals.

My officials will work closely with Greater Manchester passenger transport executive over the next few months to finalise details of the scheme.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 13 June 2005

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

Harry Cohen: To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions the Government's law officers have had with representatives of Customs and Excise about the merits of revised legal and evidential arrangements in complex and expensive fraud cases involving tax; and if he will make a statement. [1851]

The Solicitor-General: The new Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was created on 18 April 2005. RCPO is accountable to the Attorney-General and responsible for the prosecution of HM Revenue and Customs cases in England and Wales. The director of RCPO, David Green QC, meets regularly with the Law Officers to discuss the work of the new department. These discussions cover matters of policy and strategy arising from new developments in the law, and also the progress of the department's most serious cases, including complex VAT frauds.

Correspondence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Solicitor-General when he will answer the letter from Mr. H. R. Johnson of 18 March 2005, a constituent of the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green; and if he will make a statement. [4613]

The Solicitor-General: I am told my office has no record of receiving a letter dated 18 March 2005 from Mr. H. R. Johnson. However, I will consider a response if the hon. Member sends me a copy of the letter.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to encourage African Governments to tackle corruption. [2944]

Hilary Benn: Corruption is a symptom of poor governance. DFID supports a range of governance reforms to tackle corruption, for example through programmes to improve public financial management and judicial and parliamentary oversight. DFID has also provided technical and financial support to dedicated anti-corruption commissions in Uganda, Sierra Leone, Malawi and Zambia. We are also working with our G8 partners to tackle corruption, for example through the G8 transparency initiative, which focuses particularly on budget and procurement reform. Nigeria is a pilot country.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was donated by the United Kingdom to each African country per head of population in the last financial year; and what ranking the Government apply to the relative poverty of African countries. [2739]

Hilary Benn: The UK reports to the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on overall UK development assistance by calendar rather than financial year. The following table sets out the amount of UK overseas development assistance to each African country for the calendar year 2003. These are the most recent figures available[1]. The table is ranked by the amount of UK overseas development assistance received per head of population.

The Department for International Development's 16 target countries in Africa are highlighted in the table. DFID includes a measure of relative poverty in the financial model which informs the allocation of development assistance to these sixteen countries—specifically gross national income (GNI) per capita, progress towards the millennium development goals and economic vulnerability.

[1] *Information source:*
Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development Development Assistance Co-operation (OECD DAC) Online and World Development Report (WDI) Online.

UK Net oda to Africa in 2003

		£ millions	£ sterling
	Population	*UK Net ODA*	*UK ODA per head of population*
Sierra Leone	5,336,568	33.64	6.304
Malawi	10,962,010	68.02	6.205
Tanzania	35,888,960	174.82	4.871
Ghana	20,669,260	80.38	3.889
Zambia	10,402,960	40.35	3.879
Rwanda	8,395,000	26.26	3.128
Zimbabwe	13,101,750	36.07	2.753
Uganda	25,280,000	64.09	2.535
Mozambique	18,791,420	38.81	2.065
Benin	6,720,250	12.94	1.926
Lesotho	1,792,744	3.14	1.752
South Africa	45,828,700	75.27	1.642
Kenya	31,915,850	48.63	1.524
Liberia	3,373,542	4.67	1.385
Namibia	2,014,546	1.78	0.885
Swaziland	1,105,525	0.85	0.770
Cameroon	16,087,470	10.99	0.683
Congo, Rep.	3,757,263	2.43	0.647
Angola	13,522,110	8.44	0.624
Eritrea	4,389,500	2.67	0.608
Mauritius	1,222,188	0.74	0.606
Sudan	33,545,730	20.22	0.603
Ethiopia	68,613,470	38.53	0.562
Botswana	1,722,468	0.70	0.405
Gambia	1,420,895	0.57	0.401
Mauritania	2,847,869	1.00	0.351
Burundi	7,205,982	2.15	0.298
Congo Dem.Rep. (Zaire)	53,153,360	13.88	0.261
Somalia	9,625,918	2.17	0.225
Nigeria	136,461,000	26.08	0.191
Madagascar	16,893,900	3.10	0.183
Guinea	7,908,905	1.29	0.163
Chad	8,581,741	1.00	0.116
Cote d'Ivoire	16,835,420	1.31	0.078
Togo	4,861,493	0.26	0.053

UK Net oda to Africa in 2003

	Population	£ millions UK Net ODA	£ sterling UK ODA per head of population
Senegal	10,239,850	0.41	0.040
Egypt	67,559,040	2.17	0.032
Niger	11,762,250	0.27	0.023
Algeria	31,832,610	0.48	0.015
Mali	11,651,500	0.13	0.011
Burkina Faso	12,109,230	0.07	0.006
Cape Verde	469,681	0.00	0.000
Central African Rep.	3,880,847	0.00	0.000
Comoros	600,142	0.00	0.000
Djibouti	705,480	0.00	0.000
Gabon	1,344,433	0.00	0.000
Guinea-Bissau	1,489,209	0.00	0.000
Morocco	30,112,640	0.00	0.000
Sao Tome and Principe	157,400	0.00	0.000
Tunisia	9,895,201	0.00	0.000

Date: 8 June 2005

Source:

DAC Online and WDI Online

Antiretroviral Drugs

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on progress in making available generic antiretroviral drugs at reasonable prices for the treatment of AIDS in poor countries. [3512]

Mr. Thomas: In December 2004, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that 700,000 people living in developing countries were receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV compared to 400,000 in June 2004. Reductions in the prices of antiretroviral combination therapy have been a key element in this increase. Competition from generic versions of HIV drugs has been important in reducing drug prices, along with action by pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices for proprietary medicines. The UK supports the rights, consistent with international agreements on trade and intellectual property, of developing countries to make informed decisions on the purchase and use of generic HIV drugs to meet their treatment needs.

The WHO will release an updated report on access to HIV treatment in developing countries at the end of June, when progress in reaching the target of three million people on treatment by the end of 2005 can be assessed, including the role of generic drugs.

Botswana

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what foreign aid has been given by the UK to Botswana since 1997. [2273]

Hilary Benn: UK foreign aid to Botswana between 1997 and 2003 was worth £28.3 million, either channelled through bilateral aid or multilateral institutions such as the European Union, United Nations and the World Bank. DFID's programmes focused on capacity building and policy development in areas such as animal production and range management, support to civil society and HIV/AIDS. UK aid to Botswana has declined over time owing to DFID's commitment to give 90 per cent. of its bilateral aid to low income countries, with only 10 per cent. going to middle income countries like Botswana. The table gives a breakdown of annual figures up to 2003–04, the last year for which figures are available.

£ million

Period	Bilateral aid	Multilateral contributions	Total
1997–98	4.0	5.9	9.9
1998–99	3.1	3.0	6.1
1999–2000	3.0	1.6	4.6
2000–01	2.4	0.9	3.3
2001–02	2.0	0.2	2.2
2002–03	1.4	0.1	1.5
2003–04	0.7	Not available[1]	0.7

[1] The 2003 multilateral share figures are currently being calculated and will be available at the beginning of July 2005.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government are providing to help tackle HIV/AIDS in Botswana. [2945]

Hilary Benn: UK Government assistance for HIV/AIDS prevention and control in Botswana has been provided through a grant of £7.6 million to the Southern African Development Community. The grant is for the period 2001 to 2006 and is for assistance in Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho.

Given the existing heavy emphasis by the Government of Botswana and international donors upon treatment, DFID has concentrated its support upon prevention. DFID has been working to improve the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, encourage programmes aimed at changing behaviour, increase access to male and female condoms, and to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health and groups that represent HIV positive people.

Resources from the total have been allocated to Botswana specifically as follows

Area of support project	Organisations supported	Total Budget (£)
National AIDS programme strengthening and support to people living with HIV/AIDS	Ministry of Health; Botswana Network of People living with AIDS	320,000
STD management	Ministry of Health; Private practitioners	230,000
Behaviour change communication	Ministry of Health; National AIDS Council; Botswana National Youth Council; Media	294,000
Social marketing of condoms	Population Services International	830,000
Total		1,674,000

Counter-terrorism

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* proportion and *(b)* amount of his Department's resource budget was spent on counter-terrorism measures in (i) Africa, (ii) Afghanistan, (iii) Pakistan, (iv) the Philippines, (v) the remaining South and East Asia and Pacific countries and (vi) all other countries in each year since 2001–02. [3643]

Hilary Benn: DFID resources are not spent on direct counter-terrorism measures. Under the International Development Act (2002), development assistance must be used for the purpose of furthering sustainable development in countries outside of the UK or improving the welfare of the population of such countries.

However, DFID's work on poverty reduction indirectly benefits global security. Terrorist leaders can exploit the issue of poverty as a means of mobilising popular support and legitimising their actions. Many of the structural factors that increase the risk of terrorism also matter for development: unmet political and economic aspirations, lack of jobs for skilled labour, weak states and poor governance. DFID support to poverty reduction, good governance, social inclusion and education in many poor countries helps to reduce the risk of terrorism.

DFID has no bilateral programme in the Philippines.

Darfur

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what additional support the UK will offer the African Union to ensure safe delivery of humanitarian aid in Darfur. [2395]

Hilary Benn: I refer my hon. Friend to the ministerial statement I issued earlier today. The UK has significantly increased its support to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), with commitments now totalling almost £32 million. This will help enable AMIS to fulfill its mandate to: ensure people in Darfur live in more peaceful and secure conditions; monitor and report on alleged violations of the ceasefire; and contribute to a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian relief.

Iraq

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentages of households in Iraq have access to *(a)* clean water and *(b)* electricity. [2539]

Hilary Benn: The most recent reliable source of data on living standards in Iraq is the "Iraq living Conditions Survey 2004" conducted by the Iraqi Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology in April and May 2004. The following information is drawn from this survey which can be found at http://www.iq.undp.org/ILCS/overview.htm.

Access to clean water in Iraq varies significantly between urban and rural areas. In urban areas, 66 per cent. of households have reliable, safe drinking water; 33 per cent. have access to safe water but the supply is unreliable; and 1 per cent. of urban households are receiving unsafe drinking water. In rural areas, 43 per cent. of Iraqi households have reliable access to safe drinking water, 22 per cent. have access to safe drinking water but the supply is unreliable, and 34 per cent. have access only to unsafe drinking water.

Almost all Iraqi households are connected to an electricity network, with little variance between urban and rural areas. However, only 15 per cent. of households report their electricity supply to be reliable: 85 per cent. of households experienced low voltage supply or a supply of less than 12 hours per day. 31 per cent. of households use a private generator to improve their access to electricity.

DFID has committed over £70 million to infrastructure programmes in southern Iraq which are helping to improve water and electricity supplies for more than 5 million people. DFID is providing advisers to work with the Ministry of Electricity in Baghdad on developing a national energy strategy. Water and electricity projects are also being financed by other donors, including the USA, Japan, the United Nations and the World Bank, as well as from Iraq's own budget.

Ivory Coast

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what ways the Government are working with the Government of the Ivory Coast to tackle its debt. [2947]

Hilary Benn: The UK has cancelled 100 per cent. of aid loans to the Côte D'Ivoire under Retrospective Terms Adjustment (RTA). To date, this amounts to £2,562,000. Côte D'Ivoire's outstanding balance of aid loans owed to the UK amounts to £862,000, which will be cancelled (under RTA) as they fall due.

The UK actively supports the progress of eligible countries through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, for example by supporting development of their debt management capacity under the HIPC Capacity Building Project. Since 1997–98, the UK has written off approximately £16.2 million of Côte D'Ivoire's debt under Paris Club agreements. Côte D'Ivoire's outstanding balance to the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) currently stands at £18.9 million. Once the Côte D'Ivoire reaches Decision Point, it will begin to receive interim relief on this debt, and would receive 100 per cent. relief from UK at Completion Point.

Côte D'Ivoire's outstanding balance to the Commonwealth Development Corporation currently stands at just under £13,000,000. This would be suspended once Côte D'Ivoire reaches Decision Point, and cancelled at Completion Point.

Due to the civil conflict in Côte D'Ivoire the country is currently off-track on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) programme, which has meant that progress towards meeting the HIPC Decision Point conditions has been delayed.

The United Kingdom is working closely with the international community in support of a durable political settlement in the Côte d'Ivoire. During 2004–05, DFID also provided £1.55 million in humanitarian

assistance through international agencies and non-governmental organisations working there. DFID is continuing to monitor the humanitarian situation and is planning to provide £2 million in humanitarian assistance in 2005–06.

Malawi

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to reduce Malawi's dependency on the tobacco crop. [3759]

Hilary Benn: I refer my hon. Friend to the responses I gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 21 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 388W.

Nigeria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations the Government have made to the Nigerian Government on corruption; and if he will make a statement. [2939]

Hilary Benn: The need for serious action against corruption has been a central feature of the UK's discussion with the Nigerian Government.

President Obasanjo has personally spearheaded a campaign to tackle corruption and is showing resolve in tackling the problems, but he faces significant challenges. There are strong vested interests working against him. We have commended him for his action and in particular for the establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, which was responsible for the recent arrest of the Inspector General of Police, and for the investigations leading to the dismissal of the Senate President and Education Minister. Nigeria is also implementing the extractive industries transparency initiative.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to assist in raising living standards in Nigeria. [2943]

Hilary Benn: Nigeria is the biggest country in Africa in terms of population, and one of the poorest. It is also the least aided in terms of development assistance per capita. It has appalling human development indicators, reflecting decades of mismanagement and corruption by military dictatorships. The administration of President Obasanjo is now making progress and has developed a good poverty reduction strategy, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The UK has doubled the size of our programme from £35 million in 2003–04 to £70 million this year. We plan to increase it further to £100 million, reflecting the progress being made by the federal Government in starting to tackle poverty and in tackling corruption. The UK has also been supporting the case at for debt relief for Nigeria.

Overseas Aid

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the *(a)* transparency and *(b)* accountability of his Department's aid programme to the developed countries. [3645]

Hilary Benn: DFID's programme is aimed at helping developing countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Both DFID and our partner governments must be accountable for the way we use UK public resources to pursue this aim. We must be fully transparent about the way resources are spent; and we must be accountable for results both to the UK Parliament and public, and to the governments and citizens of our partner countries.

To ensure transparency of its policies and plans, DFID publishes details of its work in our Annual Departmental Report, and in a wide range of other documents openly available on our website www.dfid.gov.uk.

To ensure our accountability for delivering results, DFID has a clear public service agreement (PSA), which assesses the contribution made by DFID to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. DFID reports twice a year on progress against the PSA.

To ensure transparency and accountability in the way our resources are spent in partner countries, DFID applies robust programme and financial management, and audit systems, for resources we administer directly. Where DFID provides resources for partner Governments or non-government agencies to use through their own systems, we conduct thorough risk assessments of the robustness of these systems, and work with partners to strengthen these systems where necessary. All DFID projects and programmes are subject to audit—either by partner Government audit systems, or through independent audit. DFID's overall expenditure is subject to audit by the UK National Audit Office.

Sierra Leone

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to encourage development in Sierra Leone. [2941]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government's commitment of support to Sierra Leone is set out in a 10 year agreement, signed in November 2002. The key areas of our programme are security sector reform, governance reform including public administration reform, decentralisation, public financial management, diamond sector reform, anti-corruption measures, private sector development and budgetary support. DFID has committed £120 million to the first three years of the agreement.

A particular feature of the agreement is the inclusion of performance benchmarks agreed between the UK Government and the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), which commit the GoSL to reforms in exchange for our support. Quarterly reviews of progress against the performance benchmarks are held with Sierra Leone authorities.

The UK is the largest bilateral donor to Sierra Leone. DFID works closely with other donors as members of the Development Partners Committee, which regularly brings together the Government of Sierra Leone and donors to discuss progress on development issues.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government are providing to alleviate debt in sub-Saharan African countries. [2946]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government are committed to the goal of 100 per cent. debt relief for poor countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. We continue to press for the rapid and full implementation of the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. This initiative is delivering real benefits to some of the world's poorest countries. To date, over $70 billion in debt relief is being provided to 27 countries, including 23 in Sub-Saharan Africa, reducing their debts by around two-thirds on average, and freeing up resources for spending on poverty reduction.

The UK goes beyond the HIPC Initiative and writes off 100 per cent. of bilateral debts for HIPC countries and holds in trust any debt service payments received from HIPC countries that have not yet qualified for debt relief, to be returned for spending on poverty reduction once they qualify. In addition, the UK has pledged a further $479 million to finance the multilateral institutions' participation in HIPC (HIPC Trust Fund and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Despite the successes of the HIPC initiative, the UK believes that we must go further still. At present, many donors have joined the UK in providing 100 per cent. bilateral relief, but multilateral institutions currently provide relief at around half this level. The UK has therefore launched a major new initiative for relief of 100 per cent. multilateral debt. We have committed to pay our share (10 per cent.) of debt service payments owed to the most concessional lending arms of the World Bank and African Development Bank on behalf of eligible countries, and are lobbying other countries to join us in providing full relief. Canada (paying 4 per cent.) and the Netherlands (2.6 per cent.) have already announced that they will participate. We are also urging the IMF to consider options for financing its share of 100 per cent. relief.

We are extending this multilateral debt relief to all countries that have formally completed the HIPC process and all other IDA-only (i.e. eligible to borrow only from the most concessional lending arm World Bank) low-income countries with suitably strong public expenditure management systems to ensure that the savings are directed towards poverty reduction. 14 Sub-Saharan African countries are currently eligible to benefit from this initiative and will receive multilateral debt relief from the UK of over £340 million through to 2015. More countries will become eligible for assistance as they meet the public financial management eligibility criteria.

In addition, the UK also actively supports the progress of eligible countries through the HIPC initiative, for example building their debt management capacity with technical assistance under the HIPC capacity building project as well as in-country support for the necessary reforms and poverty reduction planning processes that are essential for achievement of HIPC completion point.

Non-HIPC countries that are having difficulties servicing their bilateral debts are able to approach the Paris Club for relief. The Paris Club—an informal group of official creditors—assesses countries' debt levels and provides appropriate treatment by postponing, and in some cases reducing, debt service obligations. The UK is currently committed to working through the Paris Club to help find a fair and sustainable solution to Nigeria's debt problems.

Trade Relations

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what opportunities his Department offers African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to choose between the EU Economic Partnership Agreement model and their own voluntary agreements in respect of trade relations. [3644]

Mr. Thomas: The Cotonou partnership agreement, signed in June 2000 between the European Union and the African Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP), foresees the negotiation of a series of World Trade Organisation (WTO) compatible trading arrangements between the parties—Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). The Cotonou agreement also states that alternatives should be provided to ACP countries that do not want to join these EPAs with the EU. In any alternative, the ACP countries should receive no worse market access to the EU than their existing situation. The ACP have requested a review of alternatives to take place in 2006, rather than 2004 as anticipated in Cotonou. Since it is the EU that will have to present the alternative options, DFID will work with other UK Government Departments and the European Commission to ensure that alternatives are presented for any countries that do not want to be part of the EPAs.

The primary alternative to EPAs is a reformed generalised system of preferences (GSP), a non-contractual trade arrangement which the EU already offers to all developing countries, not just the ACP. DFID has supported research on the reforms which would be needed to make the GSP a viable alternative to EPAs. This research has been made public to inform negotiators' positions in both the ACP and the EU.

Another alternative for any ACP country not wishing to sign an EPA, would be to enter into a bilateral free trade agreement with the EU. Although the individual ACP country would have greater scope to tailor the provisions of the agreement to its specific needs, a single country could be in a much weaker negotiating position with the EU than with a regional grouping, as in the case of EPAs.

Zimbabwe

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to assist in tackling HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [2942]

Hilary Benn: DFID is giving priority to tackling HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe. The country is one of the worst affected in the world, with over 3,000 AIDS-related deaths per week; 25 per cent. of the adult population infected; life expectancy now well below 40 years; and

over a million orphans. There is not enough money for the fight against AIDS in Zimbabwe with relatively little international assistance.

DFID is one of the main donors supporting AIDS prevention programmes in Zimbabwe, such as supplying condoms and support for voluntary counselling and testing centres. DFID also supports large-scale home-based care programmes for households affected by AIDS, implemented through NGOs. Through UN and NGO partners, we are developing plans to expand anti-retroviral treatment and support for orphans and vulnerable children. Annual spending on this programme has averaged about £8 million over the past few years. We intend to double this in the near future.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in how many security incidents members of UK armed forces have been involved in Afghanistan since December 2004. [2694]

Mr. Ingram: United Kingdom armed forces personnel regularly conduct patrols, which contribute to the security situation in Kabul and Northern Afghanistan. They have not been the subject of any insurgency action since December 2004.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency measures his Department has in place to support UK armed forces personnel based in Afghanistan, in the event of a deterioration in the security situation there. [2696]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom currently has forces serving in both the International Security Assistance Force and in the US led coalition. We are confident that each organisation has capabilities that meet the current security requirements. NATO, the coalition and the United Kingdom constantly monitor the security situation and plan accordingly. All have capabilities available to operate in Afghanistan should any change in the security situation warrant a change to the level and nature of the international forces serving there.

Apache Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the suitability of the Apache attack helicopter to carry out the *(a)* search and rescue and *(b)* other roles of the Lynx helicopter; [2325]

(2) what roles the Apache helicopter fleet will perform in addition to its anti-tank and ground attack roles; [2326]

(3) what steps he is taking to maintain the Royal Navy's search and rescue capability when Lynx helicopters are replaced by Apaches. [2327]

Mr. Ingram: A 24 hour military and civil Search and Rescue (SAR) service around the UK is presently provided by RAF, Royal Navy and Maritime and Coastguard Agency helicopters to assist people in distress. Although the Lynx can be used for SAR if required, it is not designed for that role. This role is undertaken by the larger Sea King which is due to remain in service after the withdrawal of the current Lynx.

Limits on the range, endurance and cabin size of any small helicopter prevent them being the ideal platform for SAR. In the military operational environment however, any passenger carrying helicopter such as the Lynx, Merlin or Chinook can be used to rescue personnel if required. The Apache is not a passenger helicopter and therefore there are no plans to use it for either the civilian SAR or military rescue requirements.

Currently the main roles of the Army Lynx are attack, reconnaissance, control of firepower and movement of personnel and equipment. The primary role for the Apache is as an attack platform (anti-tank and ground attack). In addition, if required, it can also carry out the control of firepower (artillery and close air support) and Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) tasks that are currently undertaken by the Army Lynx.

Armed Forces (Recruitment)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on recruitment rates to the armed forces. [2785]

Mr. Touhig: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 463W, to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government are taking to encourage young people to join the armed forces. [2961]

Mr. Touhig: All three services undertake numerous and varied initiatives, both at national and local level, aimed at increasing the level of recruitment to the armed forces. Included among the many current initiatives are:

The use of multi-media advertising campaigns.

Services' recruiting teams' attendance at schools, careers fairs and graduate recruitment seminars, road shows, exhibitions, youth clubs and organisations.

Work experience placements within service establishments.

Personal development courses and look at life courses for young people who express an interest in the armed forces.

Taster day visits to HM ships and service establishments.

A dedicated careers website for each of the services.

An Army 'on-line' recruiting office.

Specialist diversity recruiting and action teams aimed at promoting armed forces careers among the United Kingdom's ethnic minority and faith communities.

A partnership with the 'Jobcentre Plus' making use of its network of local outlets.

British Infantry (Response Capability)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the ability of the British infantry to respond to additional urgent deployments. [3701]

Mr. Ingram: The Infantry is structured to ensure that we have forces of appropriately high readiness in place to meet urgent contingent operations.

Consultants

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many consultants were employed by his Department in each of the last three years; and what their names were. [1334]

Mr. Touhig: Specific data on the number and names of consultants employed is not held within the Ministry of Defence. However, I can advise that summaries of MOD expenditure on External Assistance, of which consultancy is a part, are available in the Libraries of both Houses for the years 1995–96 to 2003–04.

DC10/TriStar Fleets

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Royal Air Force DC10 and TriStar fleets to be phased out-of-service. [2639]

Mr. Ingram: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to the VC 10; the RAF does not have any DC10 aircraft in its inventory. On current plans the VC 10 and TriStar fleets will reach their out of service dates towards the middle of the next decade.

Departmental Estate

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those sites in England and Wales within his responsibility which have been identified as surplus to requirements; what plans have been identified as to their possible future use; what consultative process will be followed in each case; and if he will make a statement. [2059]

Mr. Touhig: Details of Ministry of Defence properties and land currently listed for disposal are available in the Library of the House. It should be noted however that the need to retain such properties and land is constantly under review. Consequently the sites in disposal change frequently. The list is generally updated quarterly.

Whenever it is decided that the Ministry of Defence has no further need for any particular site, it is our policy to consult widely, with English Partnerships, local authorities and all other interested parties, before deciding as to their possible future uses. These are, of course, often specific to individual sites and can relate to their size, location or the nature of any facilities present.

First World War Veterans

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations his Department has received from the facility at Hayes relating to the award of medals to servicemen and women from the First World War; and what plans his Department has for the future storage of the index cards stored there. [3410]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence has received no representation from the former TNT archive at Hayes about the award of medals to servicemen and women from the First World War.

The index cards to the First World War Army medal rolls are already preserved in a microfilmed format and available to researchers at The National Archives (in Class WO 372) and through the National Archives website online. The microfilming process captured the information held on the front of the cards, all but a very small percentage of the backs of the cards being blank.

The Ministry of Defence has no further administrative use for the cards and, with The National Archives, has actively sought to identify a suitable institution prepared to accept the original cards, understanding the value attached to such records by many people. The Imperial War Museum has accepted the women's cards and the remainder of the collection has been transferred into the custody of the Western Front Association.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests his Department received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 up to 30 April; in how many cases no substantive information has been provided; and what the average time taken to respond to such requests is. [2351]

Mr. Touhig: Up to 30 April the Ministry of Defence had logged 2,237 requests under the Freedom of Information Act. MOD reports its performance quarterly to the Department for Constitutional Affairs and an assessment of the outcomes for the first three months of 2005 has been completed. DCA will be publishing robust statistics on FOI requests and outcomes for the first three months of operation of FOI at the end of this month and every subsequent quarter.

Outcomes for April, including timeliness and numbers of requests refused, have not yet been collected and verified. MOD does not collect data for the purpose of calculating the average time taken to respond. The emphasis is rather on determining whether the Department has responded within the statutory requirements of the FOI Act.

Gurkhas

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a decision to be made on whether to allow full rights of accompanied service to the wives of Gurkha soldiers. [2827]

Mr. Touhig: I refer the hon. Member to the Statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 11 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 10WS. We expect to make an announcement about Gurkha Married Accompanied Service this summer.

Medical Staff

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has used *(a)* agency nurses and other medical specialists and *(b)* Frontier Medical staff in (i) Iraq and (ii) any other country where UK armed forces are deployed to augment UK military units. [3793]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence has used a small number of agency nurses and other medical specialists, including from Frontier Medical, to fill specific operational posts in Iraq and Bosnia when there has been a temporary shortfall, or to reduce the frequency of deployment of some specialist capabilities.

NATO

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work NATO is undertaking in connection with capability where there is no host nation support; and if he will make a statement. [3109]

Mr. Ingram: NATO is continuing to pursue improvements to the availability of Combat Support and Combat Service Support through the Prague Capabilities Commitment and the force planning process. In particular, NATO's Logistics Force Planning Advisory Committee is working towards better clarification of the logistics capabilities made available by allies, and encouraging the creation of better balanced force structures. This will further enhance the deployability and sustainability of NATO forces for expeditionary operations, thereby reducing its reliance on host nation support.

The NATO Response Force—which is due to achieve Full Operational Capability by October 2006—will provide a rapidly deployable, stand alone force capable of sustaining itself using embedded logistic capabilities for up to one month without host nations support, or for longer if re-supplied.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will define the roles of the NATO Response Force. [2649]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* The primary role of the NATO Response Force is to provide a rapid response in the initial phase of a crisis. On achieving Full Operational Capability by October 2006, NATO expects it to be capable of deploying as a stand alone force for crisis response across a range of potential scenarios (peacekeeping or embargo operations, for example); as an initial entry force to facilitate the arrival of follow-on forces; and as a force package that demonstrates the resolve of member nations.

Natural Disasters (Military Assistance)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for International Development and *(b)* others, about improving the effectiveness of MOD assets in assisting with natural disasters around the world in the light of the experience gained from the recent tsunami; and if he will make a statement. [2060]

Mr. Ingram: During the Government response to the tsunami, DFID and Ministry of Defence officials worked extremely closely and productively on the disaster relief effort, the United Kingdom armed forces providing a range of niche capabilities, including airlift, which achieved much in the affected area. Our guiding principle for this operation and for any such future response is that the armed forces will task the most appropriate assets to meet the requirement, as defined by DFID.

As is routine after any operation, the MOD has conducted a review in order to identify what improvements we could make in any such future operation. DFID has been fully involved in this process. In addition, MOD is fully engaged in the Government's efforts to support reform of the UN and EU humanitarian co-ordination mechanisms.

Naval Auxiliary Ships

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether naval auxiliary ships are required to go through the EU tendering process for construction and fitting out. [2872]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* Where auxiliary vessels are regarded as "warlike" MOD takes the view that such vessels are exempt from the EU procurement directives on competition.

Private Finance Projects

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the private finance initiative and public private partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2370]

Mr. Ingram: Using the HM Treasury definitions of private finance initiative and public private partnerships, the PFI and PPP projects in which the Ministry of Defence is currently engaged, and their operational status are as follows:

Project name	*Status of project*
Storage Facilities	Operational
TAFMIS (IT)	Operational
Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS)	Operational
Hazardous Stores Information System (HSIS)	Operational
Electronic Messaging System (Armymail)	Operational
Defence Fixed Telecommunications Service (DFTS)	Operational
Medium Support Helicopter Aircrew Training Facility (MSHATF)	Operational
Hawk Simulator	Operational
Tidworth Water and Sewerage	Operational
RAF Lossiemouth Family Quarters	Operational
Joint Services Command and Staff College	Operational
RAF Lyneham Sewerage	Operational
Yeovilton Family Quarters	Operational
Attack Helicopters Training	Operational
Apache Simulator Training RAF Mail	Operational
RAF Fylingdales (Power)	Operational
Light Aircraft Flying Training (LAFT) (Bulldog)	Operational
RAF Cosford and Shawbury Family Quarters	Operational
NRTA Fire Fighting Training Units	Operational
Defence Intelligence System (DIS)/Information System (Touchstone)	Operational
Tornado GR4 Simulator	Operational
Central Scotland Family Quarters (HQ)	Operational
Army Foundation College (AFC)	Operational
Main Building Refurbishment	Operational
Tri Service Materials Handling Service	Operational
Naval Communications	Operational
Defence Electronic Commerce Service (DECS)	Operational
RAF Sentry/E3D Aircrew	Operational
Lynx Aircrew Training	Operational
Defence Animal Centre (DAC)	Operational
Tri Service White Fleet	Operational
Commercial Satellite Communication Service—INMARSAT	Operational
Wattisham Married Quarters	Operational
Defence Housing Executive-Information Systems (DOMIS)	Operational
ASTUTE Class Training Service (ACTS)	Not yet operational
Bristol, Bath and Portsmouth Family Married Quarters	Operational
Heavy Equipment Transporters (HET)	Operational
Marine support to Range and Aircrew Services	Operational
Material Handling Equipment (MHE)—(Follow on)	Operational
Strategic Sealift (Ro-Ro Ferries)	Operational
Field Electrical Power Supplies (FEPS)	Operational

Project name	Status of project
MOD-wide Water and Waste Water Project (Aquâtrine)—Package A	Operational
Colchester	Not yet operational
Skynet5	Not yet operational
Hayes PFI Project-Records Storage and Management	Operational
Defence Sixth Form College (DSFC)	Operational
Devonport Support Services ARMADA	Not yet operational
MOD-wide Water and Wastewater (Project Aquatrine)—Package B	Not yet operational
MOD-wide Water and Wastewater (Project Aquatrine)—Package C	Not yet operational

RAF Brize Norton

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which new aircraft will be based at RAF Brize Norton; and what their in-service dates will be. [2641]

Mr. Ingram: The A400M, the UK's solution for the Future Transport Aircraft (FTA) requirement, is currently planned to enter service at RAF Brize Norton in 2011.

The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) contract currently under negotiation with AirTanker Ltd. is based on the firm assumption that the FSTA aircraft are both operated from, and maintained at, RAF Brize Norton. The project is currently in its Assessment Phase and is expected to be introduced into service around the end of the decade.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the C130K aircraft based at RAF Lyneham are due to be redeployed to RAF Brize Norton. [2637]

Mr. Ingram: I informed the House on 4 July 2003, *Official Report*, column 38WS, that the C130K fleet will remain at RAF Lyneham until the aircraft goes out of service by 2012. I also indicated that the Hercules C130J aircraft will relocate from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton by 2012.

Regimental Uniforms

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the new *(a)* Mercia, *(b)* Yorkshire, *(c)* Scottish and *(d)* Welsh regiments will each have one mess dress. [3255]

Mr. Touhig: A committee of representatives made up from the respective antecedent regiments has been formed to consider regimental dress and accoutrements requirements of the proposed Mercian Regiment, Yorkshire Regiment, Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Royal Welsh Regiment. It is expected that the committee's decisions will be taken during the second half of 2005. Executive approval from the Army Dress Committee will be required before any announcement is finalised.

RFA Grey Rover

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the decommissioning date for RFA Grey Rover is. [2976]

Mr. Ingram: The planned decommissioning date is 2006.

Scotia Graphics

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received about Scotia Graphics of Coventry regarding the company's performance in delivering photographs to the families of soldiers who have been on passing-out parades; and if he will make a statement. [1893]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence is aware of complaints against Scotia Graphics from families of soldiers who have passed out of the Infantry Training Centre Catterick and is sympathetic towards any family whose mementos of a proud occasion may have been lost. Although the Infantry Training Centre Catterick invited Scotia Graphics to offer their services to families attending the pass-out parade, direct responsibility for any failure by Scotia Graphics to deliver services is ultimately a matter between the company and its customers.

No further invitations will be made to Scotia Graphics.

Territorial Army

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the Territorial Army centres in the north-west of England. [2709]

Mr. Touhig: The Territorial Army is currently being rebalanced to align with the changes to the Regular Army under the Future Army Structures work. We do not anticipate that this will result in significant change to the existing Territorial Army Estate, including in north-west England.

Trafalgar Class Vessels

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which vessels in the Trafalgar Class have been subject to unscheduled operating restrictions in the last 12 months; what the causes were; and if he will make a statement. [2977]

Mr. Ingram: Operating restrictions have been applied to two Trafalgar Class submarines in the past 12 months. Since September 2004, restrictions applied to the operation of HMS Torbay and HMS Tireless which prevented them from operating at sea, and they have remained in HMNB Devonport. As responsible nuclear submarine operators, the MOD keeps submarine and nuclear safety under continual review. This process identified a theoretical safety concern that potentially weakened the submarine safety justification for these vessels. It was decided that further work should be conducted to restore full confidence in the safety justification before these two submarines returned to normal operation. At no stage did this issue take the form of a fault or defect within these submarines and the decision to limit their operation was in line with the MOD's requirement to maintain the highest safety

standards. The relevant further work on HMS Torbay's safety justification is nearing completion and work to support HMS Tireless' safety justification will be carried out as part of the previously programmed maintenance and upgrade period which she has just entered.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft Insurance Costs

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of Government regulations on insurance costs for classic aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [3125]

Ms Buck: Regulation (EC) No 785/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on insurance requirements for air carriers and aircraft operators, which entered into force on 1 May 2005, established minimum levels of passenger and third party insurance for almost all aircraft operating within Community airspace. Privately owned and operated classic aircraft are subject to these requirements which, in some cases, have led to an increase in premium because the amount of third party cover needed is greater than was in place on a voluntary basis before the Regulation came into force. The Government are concerned that this increase might prevent some historic aircraft from participating in commemorative events and has made representations to the European Commission to see if the Regulation can be amended to reduce the scope of the cover required without prejudice to people and property on the ground.

Airlines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list airlines which have been banned from travelling inside UK airspace. [2950]

Ms Buck: Any airline from outside the EU, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland which wishes to pick up or put down passengers or cargo in the UK requires a permit from the Secretary of State for Transport.

Currently the Secretary of State is refusing or would refuse to issue permits to aircraft operated by the airlines listed below because of evidence that they are not receiving adequate regulatory oversight from their national aviation authorities:

any airline from Equatorial Guinea

any airline from Liberia

any airline from Tajikistan

any airline from Sierra Leone

any airline from Democratic Republic of the Congo

Air Mauritanie (Mauritania)

any airline from Swaziland.

In addition, the Secretary of State has suspended the permit of Phuket Airlines (Thailand) because of operational safety concerns.

Airports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's plans are for airport expansion. [2951]

Ms Buck: The Future of Air Transport White Paper, published in December 2003, set out a 30-year strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the United Kingdom.

It is now for airport owners and operators to bring forward any proposals for specific airport development in the normal way.

Aviation Consultation (South-West)

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and which consultees responded to the Civil Aviation Authority's consultation on the west end airspace development incorporating route changes over Wales and South West England. [3031]

Ms Buck: This is a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority and I have asked the Chairman to write to the hon. Member.

Bus Shelters

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on replacing, removing or fixing damaged bus shelters in each English region, in each year since 1997. [2413]

Ms Buck: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Car Clubs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to promote the use of car clubs in London. [2506]

Ms Buck: The Department for Transport has taken a number of initiatives to promote car clubs, both inside and outside London.

In July 2004, we published "Smarter Choices—Changing the Way We Travel". This sets out the findings from a major research project on the impact of a range of measures aimed at reducing traffic levels through encouraging people to choose different modes of travel from single occupancy car use. The report contains a chapter on the potential effectiveness of car clubs.

This was followed up in December 2004 with "Making Smarter Choices Work". It summarised the main report findings to help local authorities include measures such as car clubs in their local transport strategies. This was published in parallel with the revised Local Transport Plan guidance which included specific advice for local authorities on car clubs.

We have also published a new, research-based, best practice guide "Making Car Sharing and Car Clubs Work" to encourage and help practitioners establish effective car clubs.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what research his Department has undertaken into the impact on the number of car journeys of car clubs; [1671]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken into the *(a)* trends in and *(b)* development of formal car-sharing through online systems; [1672]

(3) what research his Department has conducted into car-sharing schemes; if he will place copies of research findings in the Library; and what plans his Department has to provide guidance for local transport plans relating to car-sharing schemes. [1674]

Ms Buck: In July 2004, the Department for Transport published "Smarter Choices—Changing the Way We Travel". This sets out the findings from a major research project into the impact of a range of measures aimed at reducing traffic levels through encouraging people to choose different modes of travel from single-occupancy car use. The report contains individual chapters on the potential effectiveness of car sharing and car clubs. Copies of the research are being placed in the Library. Building on the evidence presented in the report, we included specific wording and advice on car sharing and car clubs in the revised Local Transport Plan guidance which we published last December.

We have also published a new, research-based, best practice guide "Making Car Sharing and Car Clubs Work" to encourage and help practitioners establish effective car share schemes and car clubs.

Child Car Safety Seats

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received regarding the safety standards for car safety seats for children; [3429]

(2) if he will take steps in the EU to tighten minimum safety standards for car safety seats for children. [3430]

Dr. Ladyman: There has been some recent media interest regarding the safety standards for car safety seats for children. This followed the publication by *Which* Magazine of a report criticising the performance of certain child restraint systems.

The Government are already looking at ways of raising the minimum safety standards for car safety seats for children by developing more rigorous seat testing involving side impact.

The UK has been heavily involved in the development of two test protocols specifically aimed at improving the performance of child seats during side impact. We expect the first of these protocols to be included in a wide ranging review of the European standards that is expected around March 2006. The second is a more demanding side impact protocol that is intended to rank performance for consumer information purposes and is also expected early next year.

Free Bus Travel

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the cost to local authorities of the introduction of free-fare schemes for people aged over 60 years and people who are disabled for local journeys by bus; and whether the cost to local authorities will be fully reimbursed by his Department. [3795]

Ms Buck: The Government will provide an extra £350 million in 2006–07 which will be sufficient to fund the cost to local authorities.

Lime Street Station

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has held concerning plans for major internal refurbishment of Lime Street station. [3516]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail advises that development of a scheme to enhance the interior of Liverpool Lime Street Station is underway. The current package of works includes the improvement of interchange facilities through the relocation of the taxi pick up point to the Skelhorne street side of the station together with the reconfiguration of the vehicular access and short stay car parking area. This work, costing £1.5 million to be funded by Merseytravel PTE, links into Liverpool's city centre movement strategy which will see a number of alterations to the highway network around the station. It will also free up space at the Lord Nelson street side of the station, allowing the development of improved passenger/retail facilities. This scheme is planned to be ready for Liverpool's tenure as European capital of culture in 2008.

I understand that Merseytravel and its partners have proposals to further enhance Lime street station as a true gateway to the city by relocating the ticket office and travel centre into Lime street chambers and resurfacing the concourse and platforms.

Lorries

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration his Department has given to issuing permits to operate lorries of 25.5 metres in length. [2379]

Dr. Ladyman: My Department has received two applications to trial vehicle trailer combinations that are longer than those currently permitted (18.75m). We are considering the issues surrounding their use in particular their manoeuvrability and the likely effect on other road users, especially those who are more vulnerable. We are also considering the logistical benefits that these vehicles may give the haulage industry, and the impact on road and rail freight movements.

M6

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles on average use the M6 between Stoke and Knutsford on each weekday in the last period for which figures are available. [2763]

Dr. Ladyman: The average number of vehicles using the M6 between junctions 15 and 19, on each weekday between 2002 and 2004, are provided in the table.

Average 24 hour traffic volume

Location	Direction	2002 Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	2003 Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Junction 15 to 16	N/B	53,455	54,104	55,406	59,597	62,837	51,566	54,423	55,966	58,413	62,263
	S/B	59,165	55,265	56,118	58,572	59,873	56,931	54,818	55,773	57,023	55,381
	Comb.	112,620	109,369	111,524	118,169	122,710	108,497	109,241	111,739	115,436	117,644
Junction. 16 to 17	N/B	56,983	60,727	64,246	65,911	70,008	57,346	61,125	62,799	65,385	70,787
	S/B	62,680	60,890	63,140	63,624	63,604	62,673	62,603	61,902	63,754	64,130
	Comb.	119,663	121,617	127,386	129,535	133,612	120,019	123,728	124,701	129,139	134,917
Junction 17 to 18	N/B	59,670	62,495	65,011	68,019	72,040	59,260	62,822	64,306	67,211	71,630
	S/B	65,383	63,844	65,201	66,268	66,623	64,354	64,177	64,327	65,714	65,765
	Comb	125,053	126,339	130,212	134,287	138,663	123,614	126,999	128,633	132,925	137,395
Junction 18 to 19	N/B	58,457	61,002	64,224	66,549	70,542	59,079	62,514	64,024	66,841	71,106
	S/B	64,413	62,860	64,793	65,446	65,052	64,142	64,068	63,771	65,378	65,242
	Comb.	122,870	123,862	129,017	131,995	135,594	123,221	126,582	127,795	132,219	136,348

Location	Direction	2004 Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Junction 15 to 16	N/B	55,790	59,314	60,790	64,164	66,441
	S/B	61,284	60,532	61,127	61,590	61,627
	Comb.	117,074	119,846	121,917	125,754	128,068
Junction 16 to 17	N/B	61,924	64,861	65,928	67,673	71,873
	S/B	65,114	63,899	65,119	65,230	66,724
	Comb.	127,038	128,760	131,047	132,903	138,597
Junction 17 to 18	N/B	60,279	63,978	65,260	68,052	71,221
	S/B	66,234	65,318	66,083	66,382	66,267
	Comb	126,513	129,296	131,343	134,434	137,488
Junction 18 to 19	N/B	60,882	64,614	65,391	68,438	71,458
	S/B	66,985	66,344	67,112	67,214	66,972
	Comb.	127,867	130,958	132,503	135,652	138,430

Minicabs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of unlicensed minicabs operating in each English region. [2410]

Ms Buck: The law throughout England and Wales requires that all mini-cabs (formally termed private hire vehicles) and their drivers and operators must be licensed. Local licensing authorities and the police are responsible for enforcement. The Department has made no assessment of the extent of illegal operation.

Mini-motorbikes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to discourage illegal use of mini-motorbikes on *(a)* public roads and *(b)* public spaces; and if he will make a statement. [3323]

Dr. Ladyman: Powered vehicles (whether internal combustion or electric) are motor vehicles within the meaning of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended. Any powered vehicle used on the public highway must comply with all aspects of road traffic law, including construction requirements, registration, road tax, insurance etc. The rider/driver should hold an appropriate licence and, where required, wear a suitable helmet.

Enforcement is a matter for individual Chief Officers of Police. Powers under the Police Reform Act 2002 allow a constable in uniform, after giving a warning, to stop and seize a motor vehicle if he/she has grounds for believing that it is being used in a careless and inconsiderate manner, or being driven illegally off-road, or being used (or is likely to be used) in an antisocial manner causing harassment, alarm or distress.

The Department has been advised that the packaging on powered toys such as miniature motorbikes generally includes a warning that the item is not for highway use. However it may be that, once such packaging is discarded, this is overlooked or ignored. We are therefore currently considering whether advice reminding purchasers and others of this issue might usefully be disseminated.

Parking income

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* income was derived from and *(b)* expenditure was incurred by each local authority on parking in financial years (i) 2003–04 and (ii) 2004–05, broken down by (A) charges and (B) penalties. [2298]

Ms Buck: Total income and expenditure on parking by local authorities in England in 2003–04 is shown in the following table. Separate statistics on income derived by local authorities from parking charges and parking penalties are not collected centrally. I have arranged for a table giving a breakdown by authority to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

2003–04	£000
Total income	1,094,464
Total expenditure	655,339
Net current expenditure	-439,125

Information on local authority parking income and expenditure for the financial year 2004–05 will be available in spring 2006.

Railways

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures have been taken since 19 October 2004 to prevent people riding on the outside of trains. [2381]

Derek Twigg: The rail industry is continually working together to make young people aware of the dangers of trespass on the railway. National and local campaigns are run regularly, particularly leading up to and during the summer holidays. The design of modern rolling stock also makes surfing more difficult than it once was.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of people riding on the outside of moving trains were reported to the British Transport police in 2004. [2382]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport police recorded 201 incidents of people riding on the outside of moving trains on Britain's rail network in 2004.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the maximum number of people that could be carried each weekday on an unbroken direct rail route between *(a)* London and Manchester and *(b)* London and Liverpool; and how many he estimates could be carried in standard class in each case. [2757]

Derek Twigg: Current services make intermediate stops. The weekday timetable from 13 June 2005 provides (both directions): 65 services between London and Manchester (excluding those via Birmingham), offering 28,730 seats (of which 19,240 are in Standard class), and 30 services between London and Liverpool, offering 13,260 seats (of which 8,880 are in Standard class).

From 13 June the morning business train departing Liverpool at 0708 will call only at Runcorn and will have a journey time of 2 hours 12 minutes compared with the equivalent at present of 2 hours 20 minutes.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether home owners who suffer *(a)* noise pollution and *(b)* vibration damage following the introduction of the high speed line on the North Kent Coast line in 2009 will be eligible for compensation. [3035]

Derek Twigg: The new rolling stock that will be introduced in Kent from 2009 will operate at speeds of up to 140 mph on the channel tunnel rail link and at slower speeds on the existing network, including the North Kent Coast.

Householders who are affected by noise from new or altered railway lines are entitled to noise compensation and amelioration measures on the same basis as householders who live next to new roads. However, there is no provision for compensation or abatement measures when use of a railway line intensifies or changes. Successive Governments have taken the view that those who choose to live adjacent to roads or railways do so in the knowledge that the volume or composition of the traffic may change, and that the householder must therefore bear that risk.

Road Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on road safety of unauthorised advertisements displayed on *(a)* motorway bridges and *(b)* adjacent fields. [3067]

Dr. Ladyman: Studies have been carried out which attempt to relate the presence of roadside advertisements and other potential distractions to road accidents. However, it is difficult to derive a direct causal relationship because accidents are relatively infrequent, and often are the result of many factors. The Highways Agency does not allow advertising to be placed on its motorway bridges. The placing of roadside advertising alongside the motorway but sited on private land is a matter for the local planning authorities. If consulted, the Highways Agency assesses the impact and likely safety consequences for each case on its merits and reports its findings to the local planning authority.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the safety of the junction at Greenodd on the A590 in Cumbria; and if he will take steps to ensure (i) a lower speed limit and (ii) a roundabout are introduced at the junction. [3409]

Dr. Ladyman: Safety at the A590 Greenodd Junction is continually assessed, and the Highways Agency has made a number of improvements to the geometry of the junction in recent years with a view to improving safety. Further improvements to the junction are currently under consideration, and the Agency has agreed to review the case for a roundabout. There are no plans to reduce the current 70mph speed limit.

Road Traffic Accidents

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal traffic accidents there have been in Tamworth in each year since 1997. [3329]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is shown in the Table.

Fatal and non-fatal accidents, Tamworth: 1997 to 2003

Accidents

	Fatal	Non-Fatal	All
1997	2	253	255
1998	0	230	230
1999	0	224	224
2000	3	223	226
2001	2	235	237
2002	0	236	236
2003	1	259	260

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* were seriously injured and *(b)* died in road traffic accidents in the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the past five years. [3586]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is shown in the Table.

Killed and seriously injured casualties East Riding of Yorkshire: 1997–2003

	Casualties	
	Killed	Serious
1997	2	19
1998	0	15
1999	0	15
2000	3	10
2001	2	11
2002	0	21
2003	1	10

Road Traffic Volumes

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage change in road traffic volumes over 2005 figures by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020. [2296]

Dr. Ladyman: Projections of road traffic, using 2000 traffic levels as a base, were published in July 2004 in the White Paper "The Future of Transport".

School Transport

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will initiate a review of legislation governing the use of vehicles for school transport contracts which do not have safety belts fitted. [2870]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Lagan Valley (Mr. Donaldson) on 24 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 539. Furthermore, schools or local authorities entering into contracts for the supply of school transport with bus operators can specify within their contracts that they will only accept proposals based on vehicles fitted with seat belts.

Speed Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there are in Southend, West; and how much money was raised in fines for each of them in each of the last three years. [2138]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department only holds the requested information at Safety Camera Partnership level and I refer the Hon Member to the answer given him today (UIN 398). Detailed information is available from partnerships, unless relating to police operational matters.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was raised in fines revenue from speed cameras in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [398]

Dr. Ladyman: This information is only available for 1999–2003 and is set out in the following tables that have been provided by the Home Office. These contain fine revenue from all speed cameras, therefore including enforcement outside of the National Safety Camera Programme. The increase in the number of penalties issued reflects in part the wider coverage of cameras with the national rollout of the Safety Camera Programme. The programme began with a pilot which included six police force areas in England in 2000. National rollout commenced in 2001. The number of police force areas taking part in the programme had increased to 24 in April 2002 and to 36 by the end of 2003.

Table A: Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for speeding offences detected by cameras[1] in England, 1999–2003

	Fixed penalties		Court proceedings		
Offence and year	Number of tickets[2]	Estimated revenue (£)[3]	Number of fines	Total amount of fine (£)	Average fine[4]
1999	395,900	15,836,000	24,800	2,811,000	113
2000	556,000	24,395,000	25,700	2,830,000	110
2001	791,200	47,474,000	31,500	3,546,000	113
2002	1,012,000	60,720,000	31,800	3,333,000	105
2003	1,600,000	96,012,000	50,400	5,337,000	106

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Paid ie no further action.
[3] Estimate based on £40 fixed penalty charge to October 2000. From November 2000 the penalty was raised to £60.
[4] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Table B: Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for speeding offences detected by cameras[1] in the Essex police force area, 1999–2003

	Fixed penalties		Court proceedings		
Offence and year	Number of tickets[2]	Estimated revenue (£)[3]	Number of fines	Total amount of fine (£)	Average fine[4]
1999	19,800	791,400	2,100	357,400	169
2000	46,300	2,007,000	2,800	317,800	115
2001	81,900	4,911,000	6,500	651,200	101
2002	98,100	5,886,000	12,200	1,022,000	84
2003	64,500	3,872,000	7,400	687,700	93

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Paid ie no further action.
[3] Estimate based on £40 fixed penalty charge to October 2000. From November 2000 the penalty was raised to £60.
[4] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are in use in each county in England. [2687]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 9 June 2005]*: The Department only holds the requested information at Safety Camera Partnership level. However, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 617–19W. Further detailed information is available from partnerships.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to increase the number of speed cameras in the Humberside area. [3585]

Dr. Ladyman: In its operational case for 2005–06, the Humberside Safety Camera Partnership submitted for approval one new mobile safety camera site. The operational case is currently being assessed by the Department.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what analysis his Department undertakes of the effectiveness of *(a)* speed cameras and *(b)* other speed reduction devices. [3592]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department periodically evaluates a range of road safety measures.

The effectiveness of the national safety camera programme is independently reviewed regularly and the reports are available in the Library and on the Department's web site. The review of the first three years' operation of the programme, published on 15 June 2004, concluded that safety cameras had reduced the number of people killed or seriously injured at camera sites by 40 per cent. A fourth year report, reflecting the rollout of the programme to thirty-five safety camera partnerships, is in preparation.

Evaluations have been published on a number of other individual speed reduction methods over recent years, including traffic calming measures and vehicle activated signs. These evaluations have helped to develop guidance and best practice which is set out in traffic advisory leaflets and other publications. The published evaluations are listed in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/05 Traffic Calming Bibliography, available in the Library and on the Department's web site.

Thameslink

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 131W, on Thameslink, whether *(a)* fast and *(b)* semi-fast trains stopped at (i) Mill Hill and (ii) Hendon under the Thameslink timetable in operation before the summer 2005 timetable; whether (A) fast and (B) semi-fast trains will stop under the new summer 2005 timetable at (1) Mill Hill and (2) Hendon; what the reasons for the changes to the timetable are; what assessment he has made of the effect of the new timetable on commuters from Mill Hill and Hendon; and if he will make a statement. [2719]

Derek Twigg: In the timetable that operated between 23 May 2004 and 11 December 2004, there were 68 services from Mill Hill Broadway to Kings Cross Thameslink. Two of these took 13 minutes, two took 15 minutes, one took 16 minutes, one took 17 minutes and the rest took between 19 and 23 minutes. There were 62 services from Hendon taking between 15 and 20 minutes.

In the new timetable from 12 June there will be 66 services from Mill Hill Broadway to Kings Cross Thameslink taking between 18 and 22 minutes and there will be 66 services from Hendon taking between 15 and 19 minutes.

The timing of services is for train operating companies to determine, having regard to their contractual requirements, in conjunction with Network Rail which allocates the necessary "train paths". Thameslink are making a number of service alterations from 12 June aimed at improving performance.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Postal Voting

26. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what consideration the Electoral Commission has given to the prevention of abuse of the postal vote. [2987]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission has considered the postal voting process in several reviews since 2001, most recently in the report Securing the vote, which was published last month. This recommended a number of changes, including a system of individual registration; further security checks; new offences and additional resources. One of the intentions behind the proposed changes is a reduction in the scope for abuse of postal votes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Waste Regulations

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many responses she has received to the consultation on Agricultural Waste Regulations; how many were from growers; and what the results of the consultation were; [3036]

(2) when she will report on the consultation into Agricultural Waste Regulations. [3037]

Mr. Bradshaw: The consultation paper on the draft Agricultural Waste Regulations was sent to a wide range of trade associations and other organisations (the main consultation). A summary consultation, with a pull-out questionnaire, was also sent to 162,000 farmers and growers in England and Wales (the summary consultation). We have received 103 responses to the main consultation and 2,485 responses to the summary consultation. It is not feasible separately to identify the number of responses received from growers.

The consultation exercise is being carried out in compliance with the Cabinet Office's "Code of Practice on Consultation" which is available at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/index.asp. We are currently considering the responses to the consultation, a significant number of which were

received after the closing date. The next step will be the publication of a summary of those responses and our analysis of them. We are not yet in a position to confirm the date of publication.

Air Sports

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on permitted activities on land for which Single Farm Payments are made; and if she will take steps to classify paragliding and hang-gliding as permitted activities. [2693]

Jim Knight: The Department has issued guidance on the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and non-agricultural use of land which balances the need for diversification opportunities with the necessity to abide by EU rules on eligibility of land under the Scheme. The guidance is built around the degree to which non-agricultural use impedes or is inconsistent with normal farming activities. It specifies that paragliding and hang-gliding events may take place on up to 28 days during the 10-month period that farmers must declare, for SPS payment purposes, that they have the required amount of eligible land at their disposal. In addition, such events may take place at any time during the remaining two months of the year. There is no restriction on individual paragliders and hang-gliders, though payment to the farmer will depend on observance of set cross-compliance conditions, which apply for the whole calendar year.

Animal Slaughter

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the rule that any animal must be slaughtered within 48 hours of sale; if she will *(a)* extend this period by a further 24 hours over weekends and *(b)* include reference to lairage; and if she will make a statement. [2876]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 48 hour rule states that animals should be slaughtered within 48 hours of arrival at the slaughterhouse and not within 48 hours of sale. This rule was introduced on the basis of veterinary advice following the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001. It strikes a proportionate balance between the need to prevent potential disease spread and the ability of slaughterhouse operators to run their businesses efficiently. The veterinary risk remains unchanged, and therefore there are no proposals to amend the rule.

The rules applicable to a lairage depend upon whether it is within or outside the slaughterhouse as licensed by the Meat Hygiene Service. If within then the lairage is considered as if part of the slaughterhouse. If not then the lairage is considered as if it were any other piece of agricultural land, in which case the rules for moving livestock applicable to such land apply.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure that there are robust targets for farm animal welfare in the England Rural Development Programme from 2007. [2675]

Jim Knight: Negotiations on the draft Rural Development Regulation are expected to reach a conclusion at the Agriculture Council on 20–22 June. We expect that an animal welfare measure will—as now—be among the options available to member states; although not as part of a combined agri-environment and animal welfare measure. The England Rural Development Programme has not made use of the option to make payments to farms in return for a voluntary commitment to apply higher standards of animal welfare. Decisions on whether to do so in future will be taken as part of the process of designing a successor Rural Development Programme, and will be taken in the light of responses to a consultation this autumn, and bearing in mind the importance of ensuring that legal animal welfare requirements are fully adhered to.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the new guidelines on the welfare of animals recently agreed by the Office International des Epizooties. [3641]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government welcome these new guidelines, on which there has been extensive consultation. The Government prefer the slaughter of animals for human consumption as close as possible to their point of production. However, it recognises that in many parts of the world it is necessary to transport animals long distances for slaughter, further fattening and breeding.

These standards have been welcomed by the industry, veterinarians and many welfare organisations and if properly implemented would greatly reduce the risk worldwide to the welfare of animals during their transport, or in the process of slaughter or killing. The guidelines will be kept under review by the OIE in light of new information and experience of their use.

Biofuels Directive

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has issued to farmers in relation to ensuring the United Kingdom meets its biofuels targets under the EU Biofuels Directive. [2794]

Mr. Morley: Defra is committed to supporting the production of transport biofuels. They have potential for UK agriculture as they can be produced from mainstream crops and we are keen to develop such new market opportunities for farmers. We are working with the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, biofuel trade associations, individual farmers and companies to develop markets and promote uptake. The potential of biofuel crops are promoted at farmer's seminars and conferences. In 2004, Defra and the British Association for Biofuels and Oils produced a booklet "The facts on biodiesel and bioethanol". Copies were distributed in a farming magazine and at seminars. The Single Payment Scheme brochures and Defra's website give guidance on claiming the Single Payment and the Energy Aid Payment for biofuel crops.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Independent Scientific Group on its conclusion that there was nothing to learn from the Republic of Ireland's study on bovine tuberculosis. [1669]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) did not conclude that there was nothing to be learned from the Republic of Ireland's four-area badger study. The ISG recognised that the Republic of Ireland study added to the available evidence, but identified limitations in the applicability of the study to the situation in Great Britain.

The Government's Strategic Framework for the sustainable control of bovine tuberculosis sets out a process for decision-making on badger culling, based on analysis of practicality, cost-effectiveness and sustainability. The Government are working on modelling (including cost-benefit analysis) badger-culling options using existing and emerging data, and this will include data from the Irish Four Area Trial.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will introduce more rigorous pre-movement tuberculosis testing of cattle; and if she will make a statement. [2659]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* The Department is considering a proposal for pre-movement testing in Great Britain, developed by one of the TB interest groups. The report of the group, which was chaired by a farmer, is available on the Defra website. http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/pdf/pre-movementtest.pdf. We are considering the groups' recommendation.

The policy will require agreement from the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly. We aim to consult later this year on the detailed proposal. A proposal is also being developed for post-movement testing in Scotland (led by the Scottish Executive).

BSE

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the incidence of cases of BSE in cows born after the imposition of the reinforced feed ban. [3640]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK's reinforced feed ban, effective from 1 August 1996, has resulted in a step change decrease in BSE in cattle born from this date. There have been 121 cases born after July 1996 in the UK. More than 183,000 cases have been confirmed in the UK to date and over 99 per cent. were born before August 1996.

No cases have yet been found in animals born in the year between August 2000 and July 2001. Three cases have recently been confirmed in cattle born in September 2001, October 2001 and May 2002. All were from the same farm and investigations into a possible cause continue.

Professor William Hill is currently carrying out an independent assessment of the possible causes of BSE cases born after July 1996 at the request of Defra.

Cattle Diseases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the new system of table valuations for *(a)* bovine TB, *(b)* enzootic bovine leukosis, *(c)* BSE and *(d)* brucellosis. [2566]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra remains committed to introducing a new cattle compensation system, based on table valuations, and aims to put the new system in place during 2005.

The Department is looking closely at concerns raised during the consultation, especially in relation to the scope of categories for commercial and pedigree animals. Ultimately we want a system that is fair to both farmers and taxpayers.

Once we have more concrete details, Defra will arrange further meetings with stakeholders to discuss how it intends to proceed.

Chewing Gum

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost of removing chewing gum from streets was in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each local authority in each year since 1997. [2411]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures are available for the total cost of street cleansing at national and regional level. However, these figures are not broken down to include more detailed aspects such as chewing gum removal.

A recent survey by ENCAMS—the environmental charity which runs the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign—received 66 responses from local authorities on gum removal. The spending by these authorities on removing gum ranged from £0 to £200,000, with the average per authority at £12,792.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she intends to lay an order before Parliament implementing section 2 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [3882]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Nuisance Parking Offences under part 2 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act came into force on the 7 June. We hope to implement the abandoned vehicle measures in the autumn. The Fixed Penalty Notices relating to local environmental offences, including nuisance parking and abandoned vehicles, are due to be implemented by April 2006.

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the representatives on the Committee on Radioactive Waste

Management have direct scientific or engineering experience of the nuclear industry; and if she will make a statement. [2657]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* Details for the members of CoRWM, together with a declaration of their interests, can be found on the CoRWM website, www.corwm.org.uk

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many options on the disposal of nuclear waste are being considered by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. [2658]

Mr. Morley: The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) launched the second phase of its Public and Stakeholder Engagement consultation programme on 4 April 2005. One of the items covered by this consultation is its proposed shortlist of options for the long-term management of the UK's higher level radioactive waste. Of the 15 options originally evaluated, CoRWM has proposed that four be carried forward to further assessment:

Deep geological disposal

Phased deep geological disposal

Near-surface disposal of short-lived waste

Long-term interim storage.

This shortlist will be finalised in light of CoRWM's consultation. Further details can be found at www.corwm.org.uk

Consultants

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many consultants were employed by her Department in each of the last three years; and what their names were. [1333]

Jim Knight: The Department has engaged consultants from the companies shown as follows in each of the last three financial years:

Consultancy supplier

	Financial year		
	2002–03	*2003–05*	*2004–05*
1	A B P Research and Consultancy Ltd	1st Call Communications Ltd	Accenture (UK) Ltd
2	ATG Consultancy Ltd	A T G Consultancy Ltd	Air Quality Consultants
3	Agra Ceas Consulting	Accenture (UK) Ltd	Alco Waste Management Ltd
4	Air Quality Consultants	Accenture Plc	Allium and Brassica Centre
5	Alco Waste Management Ltd	Agra Ceas Consulting	Amtec Consulting Group
6	Amtec Consulting Group	Agros Associates	Andersons Farm Bus Consultants Ltd
7	Black and Veatch Consulting Ltd	Air Quality Consultants	Black and Veatch Consulting Ltd
8	Bridge Corporate Consultants Ltd	Alco Waste Management Ltd	British Trust For Ornithology
9	British Trust For Ornithology	Amtec Consulting Group	Brogdale Horticultural Trust
10	Brogdale Horticultural Trust	Andersons Farm Bus Consultants Ltd	C A B I Bioscience
11	Bullen Consultants Ltd	Black and Veatch Consulting Ltd	C Y Hill
12	C A B I Bioscience	British Trust For Ornithology	Cornwell Management Consultants plc
13	C J C Consulting	Brogdale Horticultural Trust	Countrywise Communications Ltd
14	C Y Hill	C A B I Bioscience	CoVision Management Consulting
15	Cascade Consulting	C J C Consulting	C-Tech Innovation Ltd
16	Consultancy and Research Services Ltd	C Y Hill	David J Cole
17	Cornwell Management Consultants plc	Cascade Consulting	Deloitte M C S Ltd
18	Countrywise Communications Ltd	Consultancy and Research Services Ltd	Delta Partnership Solutions Ltd
19	David J Cole	Cornwall Management Consultants plc	Drew Associates
20	David Trevor-Jones Associates	Countrywise Communications Ltd	Econom For The Environ Consult Ltd
21	Dbi Consulting	CoVision Management Consulting	Elm Farm Research Centre
22	Deloitte Consulting	David J Cole	Entec UK Ltd
23	Delta Partnership Solutions Ltd	David Trevor-Jones Associates	Environmental Resources Management
24	Drew Associates	Deloitte M C S Ltd	Enviros Consulting Ltd
25	Econom For The Environ Consult Ltd	Delta Partnership Solutions Ltd	ESYS Consulting
26	Ecoscope Applied Ecologists	Drew Associates	Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd
27	Elm Farm Research Centre	Ecoscope Applied Ecologists	Fisheries Resource Management
28	Entec UK Ltd	Elm Farm Research Centre	Foundation For Science and Technology
29	Environmental Resources Management	Entec UK Ltd	Geoff Sterry
30	Enviros Consulting Ltd	Environmental Resources Management	H D R A Consultants
31	Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd	Enviros Consulting Ltd	Hedra Consortium
32	Fisheries Resource Management	Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd	Hillier Hopkins
33	Geoff Sterry	Fisheries Resource Management	I C Consultants Ltd
34	Greengage Consulting Ltd	Geoff Sterry	Ilex Energy Consulting Ltd
35	H G Leventhall	Greengage Consulting Ltd	Insite Research and Consulting
36	Hedra Consortium	H D R A Consultants	Insys Ltd
37	Hillier Hopkins	Hedra Consortium	Interbrand UK
38	I B M United Kingdom Ltd	Hillier Hopkins	International Science Consultants
39	I C Consultants Ltd	I B M United Kingdom Ltd	J C Turner Associates
40	I C M Consultancy	I C Consultants Ltd	J E P Environmental Consultancy
41	Ilex Energy Consulting Ltd	Ilex Energy Consulting Ltd	J M Beaven
42	Insite Research and Consulting	Insite Research and Consulting	John Champion Consultants
43	International Resources Group	Insys Ltd	John Fawell
44	International Science Consultants	Interbrand UK	K P M G
45	Jackson Consulting	International Science Consultants	Kellogg Brown and Root Ltd
46	John Champion Consultants	J C Turner Associates	Kirby Associates Ltd
47	Kellogg Brown and Root Ltd	J M Beaven	Land Use Consultants
48	Kirby Associates Ltd	Jackson Consulting	Logica UK Ltd
49	L M C International Ltd	John Champion Consultants	Logicacmg
50	Land Use Consultants	John Fawell	London Remade Ltd

	Consultancy supplier		
	Financial year		
	2002–03	2003–05	2004–05
51	Logica UK Ltd	KPMG	M L Parry and Associates
52	Lorren Wyatt	Kellogg Brown and Root Ltd	Macaulay Land Use Research Inst
53	M L Parry and Associates	Kirby Associates Ltd	Mcmillan Scott plc
54	March Consulting Ltd	M C International Ltd	Mentis Management Consultants Ltd
55	Mcmillan Scott plc	Land Use Consultants	Minefield Research Services Ltd
56	Mylnefield Research Services Ltd	Logica UK Ltd	Norton and Brooksbank Ltd
57	Natural Resources Institute	London Remade Ltd	Oxera Consulting Ltd
58	O'Grady's Management Consultants Ltd	M L Parry and Associates	P A Consulting Group
59	Osborne Richardson	Mcmillan Scott plc	Partnerships UK plc
60	Oxera Consulting Ltd	Morbus Consulting	Peake (GB) Ltd
61	P A Consulting Group	Morgan Chambers	Penna Change Consulting Ltd
62	PKF	Mylnefield Research Services Ltd	Penna Consulting Plc
63	Peake (GB) Ltd	Natural Resources Institute	Penna plc
64	Penna Change Consulting Ltd	Norton and Brooksbank Ltd	Public Partners
65	Q I Consulting	Oxera Consulting Ltd	Public Private Ptnrship Programme
66	Qinetiq Ltd	P A Consulting Group	Q I Consulting
67	R P S Water Services	Parliament Renewable and Sust En Grp	Qinetiq Ltd
68	Risk and Policy Analysts Ltd	68 Partnerships UK plc	Risk and Policy Analysts Ltd
69	Risk Solutions	Peake (GB) Ltd	Risk Solutions
70	Rothamsted Experimental Station	Penna Change Consulting Ltd	Simon Draper Agronomy Ltd
71	Saxton Bampfylde Hever plc	Penna Consulting Plc	Soil Association
72	Scott Wilson Piesold Consulting Ltd	Penna Sanders and Sidney	Sypol Ltd
73	Simon Poulton	Penny Anderson Associates Ltd	T E S Bretby
74	SMS Multimedia Consultancy	Public Partners	The Faraday Partnership Ltd
75	Soil Association	Public Private Ptnrship Programme	The Heather Trust
76	Spy Design Ltd	Q I Consulting	The Sir Alister Hardy Foundation For Ocean Science
77	Sypol Environmental Management Ltd	Qinetiq Ltd	The Zoological Society Of London
78	T E S Bretby	R P S Water Services	Towers Perrin
79	The Brown Rural Partnership	Risk and Policy Analysts Ltd	W R C plc
80	The Heather Trust	Simon Draper Agronomy Ltd	Water Management Consultants
81	The Sir Alister Hardy Foundation For Ocean Science	S M S Multimedia Consultancy	Williams Parry Richards
82	The Zoological Society Of London	Soil Association	—
83	W R C plc	Spy Design Ltd	—
84	Water Management Consultants	Sypol Environmental Management Ltd	—
85	Wilkinson Environ Consulting Ltd	T E S Bretby	—
86	Williams Parry Richards	The Brown Rural Partnership	—
87	Your Communications	The Faraday Partnership Ltd	—
88	—	The Heather Trust	—
89	—	The Sir Alister Hardy Foundation For Ocean Science	—
90	—	The Zoological Society Of London	—
91	—	Thirleby Consulting Ltd	—
92	—	Towers Perrin	—
93	—	W R C plc	—
94	—	Water Management Consultants	—
95	—	Williams Parry Richards	—

EU Legislation

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what EU legislation was implemented by *(a)* the Groundwater Regulations 1998, *(b)* the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000, *(c)* the Biocidal Products Regulations 2001, *(d)* the Processed Animal Proteins (England) Regulations 2001, *(e)* the Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligations) Order 2001, *(f)* the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 and *(g)* the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003. [1708]

Mr. Morley: The information is as follows:

(a) The Groundwater Regulations 1998 completed the implementation of the Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC).

(b) The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 implemented Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.

(c) The Biocidal Products Regulations 2001 implemented Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market.

(d) The Processed Animal Proteins (England) Regulations 2001 implemented Council Decision 2000/766/EC concerning certain protection measures with regard to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and the feeding of animal protein and Council Decision 2001/9/EC (as amended by Commission Decision 2001/165/EC) concerning control measures required for the implementation of Council Decision 2000/766/EC.

(e) The Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligations) Order 2001 does not implement EU legislation.

(f) The Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 implemented Council Regulation 1774/2002/EC (as amended by Commission Regulation 808/2003/EC) laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption.

(g) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 implemented the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

Fly-posting

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of streets in each local authority had visible fly-posters in each year since 1997. [2429]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures on the visibility of fly-posters on streets for each local authority are not available from 1997. However, the annual Local Environmental Quality Survey of England, conducted by ENCAMS on behalf of Defra, provides statistics on the extent of fly-posting on a regional basis since 2001–02. This is a measure of the percentage of sites (covering streets and highways, public open spaces and waterside areas) that have significant levels of fly-posting present, so as to be clearly visible to the public. The statistics for all areas combined show that the percentage of transects with unsatisfactory levels of fly-posting has fallen from 2 per cent. to 1 per cent. nationally.

As of April 2005, a new best value performance indicator BV199c has been introduced to measure levels of fly-posting based on the LEQSE methodology. Statistics for each local authority will therefore be available from next year.

Percentage of site transects that have significant levels of fly-posting present from LEQSE 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04

	Year 1 (2001–02)	*Year 2 (2002–03)*	*Year 3 (2003–04)*
London	4	5	4
South-East	3	1	1
South-West	2	0	1
West Midlands	1	1	0
East Midlands	1	1	0
East of England	1	1	1
Yorkshire and The Humber	1	1	1
North-West	2	1	0
North-East	1	0	0
All areas	2	1	1

Fly-tipping

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the cost of removing fly-tipped rubbish was in each year since 1997; [2424]

(2) how many fly-tipping incidents have been recorded in each English region in each year since 1997. [2425]

Mr. Bradshaw: Before this year no national data have been collected on incidents of illegal waste disposal or fly-tipping.

Defra has worked with the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association to develop Flycapture, a national fly-tipping database, which has been active since April 2004. Initial returns from English local authorities for the six month period between June to November 2004 reported that £24 million was spent on clearing fly-tipping.

Initial returns for the same six month period reported the following numbers of incidents dealt with by local authorities:

Region	*Number of incidents reported (6 months June to November 2004)*
East Midlands	20,411
East of England	35,453
Greater London	134,276
North East	40,505
North West	34,266
South East	34,743
South West	13,081
West Midlands	26,703
Yorkshire and Humberside	102,445

Game Management

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her assessment is of the role played by game management in management of uplands. [2652]

Jim Knight: Game management has played a significant role in creating and maintaining some of the typical habitats of the uplands, especially in northern England. The major influence has been management for driven grouse shooting, which has taken place for the past 150 years. The areas of such habitat are extensive and of national or international importance for their vegetation and breeding birds. It is noteworthy that some 75 per cent. of our heather moorland are classified as areas of national and international importance for wildlife both plants and animals. However, large areas of the English uplands managed for game (red grouse) designated as SSSI/SAC/SPA, are in unfavourable condition due to past poor management practices such as overgrazing, intensive burning and drainage.

IT Contracts

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* projected cost at the time of tender and *(b)* actual cost at the time of completion was for each IT contract commissioned by her Department and its predecessors in the last five years. [2579]

Jim Knight: The information the hon. Member requests is not held centrally by the Department and cannot therefore be readily retrieved without incurring disproportionate cost.

Litter/Abatement Orders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates she has made of the amount of litter dropped in the street in each year since 1997; and what percentage of this is made up of *(a)* food and *(b)* food wrapping. [2415]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures are available through Defra's Municipal Waste Management Survey for the amount of non household municipal waste collected by local authorities. However, this is not broken down further to record the amount—or type—collected through street cleansing.

However, the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England for 2003–04 shows that of the areas surveyed, seven out of 10 items of litter most frequently dropped by pedestrians or people in vehicles are 'Food-on-the-Go' materials (comprising confectionery litter, soft drinks related litter, snack packaging, fast food packaging and paper tissues).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to review the system of litter abatement orders. [2640]

Mr. Bradshaw: The system of litter abatement orders was reviewed in Defra's "Living Places—Powers, Rights, Responsibilities" consultation published in October 2002. Responses to the consultation indicated that most local authorities are able to negotiate a solution before a litter abatement order is lodged. The principle behind the procedure is sound, but the use and application of litter abatement orders needs to be communicated to residents more effectively.

The environmental charity, ENCAMS, sponsored by Defra, already provides information for the public on litter abatement orders. Defra is building on this further in its roll-out programme for the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which will include guidance on litter covering both existing and new legislation.

Livestock

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Meat and Livestock Commission was chosen to be the body responsible for collecting data from markets for the purpose of the introduction of the new table valuations system. [2568]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) have been contracted by Defra, for some time, to provide sales data for store cattle and this contract was due to end on 31 March 2005. However, for business continuity reasons, a decision was taken to extend the agreement for a further year. To support the proposed new table valuation system, Defra, in extending the existing contract, also took the opportunity to require the MLC to expand the range of sales data collected, and significantly increase the number of data sources.

A new contract for this work will be tendered to suitable companies later this year.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many owners who lost stock due to disease breakdown have been overpaid due to overvaluation of that stock in each of the last five years. [2567]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to give a precise figure for the number of cattle owners that have received excessive compensation as a result of a TB breakdown. However, the evidence for overcompensation is extensive and includes: a National Audit Office (Wales) study, which concluded both that compensation payments in South Wales were between 50 and 100 per cent. higher than comparable 'free market' values and also that there was a significant overcompensation problem in South West England, and two Defra internal audit studies which also concluded that over-compensation was a significant problem in England.

Furthermore, a separate report by the University of Reading concluded that a significant number of beef farms, and some dairy farms, showed a net financial benefit associated with their TB breakdown. This suggested that some farmers were being over-compensated by significant amounts, including consequential losses, which are illegal under the compensation scheme.

Low-frequency Noise

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will revise the advice given to local authorities on handling complaints relating to low-frequency noise to assist them in detecting the source of low-frequency noise. [2721]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department published University of Salford guidance for local authorities on its website on 24 May which provides a methodology for assessing complaints of low frequency noise. This guidance, produced on behalf of Defra, is supported by reports on the development of the methodology and its field trials by local authorities. The guidance gives advice to local authorities on how to assess complaints of low frequency noise, from taking into account the personal circumstances of a case to using the methodology for detecting and measuring a low frequency noise which would otherwise be difficult to assess. This will help local authorities to decide whether action should be taken under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Motor Sports

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on use of agricultural land for motor sports. [1328]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 104W.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what consultations were held before the decision to include motorbike trials in section C of the Guidance on Single Payment Scheme and Non-Agricultural Use; [477]

(2) what the principal reasons were for classifying motorbike trials under section C of the Guidance on Single Payment Scheme and Non-Agricultural Use; [485]

(3) what representations she has received concerning the banning of motorbike trials on agricultural land under the Single Farm Payment Scheme. [486]

Jim Knight: The Department's guidance on the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and non-agricultural use of land balances the need for diversification opportunities with the necessity to abide by EU rules on eligibility of land under the scheme. It is built around the degree to which non-agricultural use impedes or is inconsistent with normal farming activities and was originally drawn up following discussions with representatives of the agricultural industry. Following representations from motor sports interests the guidance has recently been updated with motor sports moving to section B from section C.

Nappies

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy

is on the promotion of reusable nappies in the light of the life cycle assessment on disposable and reusable nappies; and if she will make a statement. [3131]

Mr. Bradshaw: Our policy has not changed. It is for parents to choose the type of nappy they use. The Government will continue funding, through the Waste and Resources Action Programme, a programme on re-usable nappies in order to help parents make an informed choice and the UK to achieve its landfill directive targets.

Recycling

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether it is possible for the precepts paid by local authorities to waste disposal authorities to be calculated on the number of Band D properties only, without reference to councils' success in achieving recycling targets; [2756]

(2) how many waste disposal authorities calculate the precept imposed on local councils without reference to the amount of recycling done by any given council; [2759]

(3) if she will implement changes to the method whereby waste disposal authorities calculate local authorities' precepts to encourage recycling; [2760]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effects of the practice of Merseyside waste disposal authority of levying precepts on local councils irrespective of the amount of recycling done by those authorities. [3822]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount levied by the joint waste disposal authorities upon the 35 constituent councils and the manner in which it is apportioned are matters for the authorities' members, who are appointed by the constituent councils. Where unanimous agreement on an alternative cannot be reached the levy is apportioned according to a default, currently based on the number of Band D council tax properties within each authority.

Of the six joint waste disposal authorities I understand that two currently use the default levy basis, although both are discussing proposals for a tonnage-based levy, and the rest have agreed alternatives which encourage a reduction in the amount of waste delivered for disposal.

No specific assessment has been made of the use of the default levy by Merseyside waste disposal authority. However, the Government recognise that the current default levy basis does not encourage authorities to reduce, reuse or recycle waste and we have committed to changing the default to encourage more sustainable waste management. My officials will be consulting the joint waste disposal authorities and their constituent councils on proposals for change shortly.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to change the system whereby councils' targets to increase recycling are based on a percentage increase on their previous volumes; [2758]

(2) what plans she has to change the basis on which targets for recycling by councils are set. [3823]

Mr. Bradshaw: In response to Recommendation Nine of the Strategy Unit Report 'Waste not, Want not', the Government are currently undertaking a review of recycling and composting targets in the light of performance against 2003–04 targets. The review is considering the efficacy of the existing suite of targets, and the value in setting future targets. It will take into account the fact that there are already a number of policy levers designed to drive the management of waste up the hierarchy. The outcome of the review will feed into the wider review of Waste Strategy 2000 which is also taking place in 2005, consistently with that Strategy's monitoring arrangements. The targets review will inform decisions by Ministers—as soon as possible—on any adjustment to existing targets and on any new sustainable waste targets to be set at national or local level aimed at driving up performance. Both reviews will take full account of stakeholders' and the public's views.

Rights of Way/Footpaths

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of *(a)* rights of way and *(b)* footpaths are (i) easy to use and (ii) in a good state of repair. [2428]

Jim Knight: The Best Value Performance Indicator figures for 2003–04 published by the Audit Commission show that an average of 69 per cent. of rights of way in England are easy to use. To qualify as easy to use the right of way should be in a good state of repair. The Best Value survey figures are for all types of rights of way and are not broken down to provide information on footpaths alone.

Sewerage

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the sewer capacity in *(a)* Stroud, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* England. [2677]

Mr. Morley: The Office of Water Services (Ofwat) does not collect information on sewer capacity. It is the responsibility of water and sewerage companies to ensure their sewers have sufficient capacity. Ofwat set price limits in December 2004 which will allow the companies to maintain and invest in their assets.

In its final determinations Ofwat took account of the need for the companies to take action to safeguard homes against the risk of sewer flooding. This is set out in table 40 of Ofwat's 'Future water and sewerage charges 2005–10:Final determinations' which is in the Library of the House. Ofwat also allowed financing for companies to invest in upgrading their sewerage assets to meet rising demands particularly in relation to housing growth. This is set out in table 31 of the same document.

Single Payment Scheme

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on *(a)* the eligibility of short rotation coppice under the single payment scheme and *(b)* the implications for biomass production therefrom. [1500]

Jim Knight: Land on which short rotation coppice is grown in 2005 or later years is eligible for the purpose of the single payment scheme if it meets one of the following criteria:

the land is set-aside under the non-food crop regime; or

energy crop aid is also claimed on the crop; or

the short rotation coppice was planted between 30 April 2004 and 10 March 2005.

We are exploring the position further in respect of those growers who do not meet the qualifying criteria. The single payment scheme provides a clear option for diversification into biomass production to supply the markets which are now coming forward.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will establish an independent tribunal system to consider claims by farmers concerning alleged mishandling of single payment scheme applications by the Rural Payments Agency. [1509]

Jim Knight: Farmers have had access to an independent appeal procedure since 1 April 2002 which has enabled them to challenge decisions made by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on their subsidy scheme claims.

The single payment scheme Appeal Procedure was introduced in 2004 and is currently dealing with appeals from farmers relating to the introduction of the scheme. It will continue to be available to farmers who wish to challenge decisions made by RPA that will affect the amount of single payment that they will receive.

The independent appeal procedure is not a tribunal system but gives a farmer the opportunity to present their case to an independent panel made up of members who have been appointed in accordance with the Code of Practice on Public Appointments.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason it has been decided that farmers who do not submit applications under the single payment scheme by 10 June 2005 should lose all entitlements until 2012. [1510]

Jim Knight: 10 June 2005 was the final date provided for in the European regulations for the establishment of entitlements under the single payment scheme. Where establishment of entitlements took place after 16 May 2005 a reduction of 4 per cent. per working day will be applied to payments made in respect of those entitlements claimed in 2005.

Waste Management

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of household waste in *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire and *(b)* England was (i) recycled and (ii) composted in the last year for which figures are available; and what action her Department is taking to increase that percentage. [3600]

Mr. Bradshaw: Audited data show that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council achieved 14 per cent. for the recycling and composting of household waste against a target of 18 per cent. for 2003–04.

The figure for England shows that householders are now recycling and composting 17.7 per cent. of their household waste against a national target of 17 per cent. for 2003–04.

Defra, and Government more widely, recognise the challenge local authorities in England face meeting their statutory performance standards in recycling and composting and the increase in costs as waste is diverted away from landfill. Accordingly, we are providing increased levels of support and funding to drive the management of household waste up the waste hierarchy.

Local authorities' main source of funding for waste management is the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) block of the Revenue Support Grant distributed by central Government each year, supplemented by council tax. In last year's Spending Review (SR2004) the Government announced an increase in EPCS Formula Spending Share block of £888 million by 2007–08 over 2004–05.

Funding is also being provided from a variety of other sources to help authorities meet and exceed their targets. The Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG) is providing unringfenced funding to local authorities worth £45 million in 2005–06 and £105 million and £110 million in the two following years. The grant is intended to underpin core funding, helping to put in place new and more efficient ways to reduce waste and increase recycling and diversion from landfill. Through the private finance initiative (PFI), credits worth £355 million have been made available in the three years to 2005–06 as an extra source of funding, with a further £535 million available in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

Alongside the additional funding, we are providing increased support to local authorities through a number of organisations who can offer both advice and funding. The Waste Implementation Programme (WIP) has devoted over £150 million over the three years to 2005–06 to strategic measures helping authorities to divert waste from landfill. It includes a Local Authority Support Unit aimed specifically at assisting local authorities to reach their targets and manage waste in a more sustainable fashion. The unit is providing help, where appropriate, in the form of best practice guidance, practical support and consultancy advice, including public awareness and education programmes.

On a national basis, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is a not-for-profit company supported by funding from Defra, the Department for Trade and Industry and the devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is working to promote sustainable waste management by creating stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products. It also runs the Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team which is available to all local authorities in England to provide support and advice on the separate collection of dry recyclables and organic wastes.

We are also engaging with the poorest performing local authorities, which has included meetings with the Minister of State for some of them, to ensure they receive the right support. If authorities continue to demonstrate no commitment to improvement the

Secretary of State will use—as a last resort—the formal intervention powers under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Water Pollution

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to define microbial public health standards for *(a)* water courses and *(b)* discharges into them. [2678]

Mr. Morley: The Surface Water Abstraction Directive specifies microbiological standards for waters that are abstracted for potable water supply. The quality of the abstracted water determines the level of treatment of raw water required for potable consumption.

The Bathing Waters Directive specifies mandatory and guideline standards for identified bathing waters. In the UK most are tidal waters not watercourses. The few inland bathing waters are all lakes or ponds. The Bathing Waters Directive is currently under review.

There are no microbial water quality standards that are generally applicable to all water courses or discharges. The microbiological quality of inland watercourses is highly variable, due to land runoff from livestock agriculture and from urban drainage after rainfall, as well as from continuous discharges of treated effluent from sewage works.

In England and Wales the Environment Agency is responsible for approving and regulating discharges to watercourses. Where a discharge to inland (or tidal) waters could impact upon the microbiological quality of a Bathing Water, (or a Shellfish Water, for which there are shellfish flesh standards) the Environment Agency's policies and procedures are intended to ensure that permitted discharges do not put compliance with the standards at risk.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* the Environment Agency have had with Local Agenda 21 groups about pollution of water courses. [2679]

Mr. Morley: Following the Earth Summit in 1992 and the Agenda 21 declaration, many local communities in the UK set up voluntary groups which worked on sustainable development activity. In many local authority areas, Agenda 21 strategies have been subsumed into statutory community strategies and some Agenda 21 groups disbanded.

There is no official list or register of these groups since they change as do the communities who set them up. There are no official communication channels with these groups and Defra has not received any requests for discussion about environmental water quality.

At the national level, Defra encourages stakeholder participation in water quality issues through stakeholder groups and consultations, for example the Water Framework Directive stakeholder group that considers issues relating to implementation of the Water Framework Directive in England and water policy generally. Its membership covers a wide range of interests, including the environment, the water industry, agriculture, the countryside, and industry.

At the local level, the Environment Agency has worked for many years with Local Agenda 21 groups and the partnerships they have often developed into, for example Local Strategic Partnerships, on a number of environmental issues and objectives, including the pollution of watercourses.

The Environment Agency is currently involved with 284 Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and the development and implementation of their Community Strategies.

TREASURY

Banks (Windfall Tax)

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to levy a windfall tax on the domestic banking sector; and if he will make a statement. [3201]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Tax policy is reviewed as part of the annual Budget process. There are no current plans to introduce a windfall tax on banks.

Climate Change Levy

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the total yield of the climate change levy in each year since its introduction; what its expected yield is in the 2005–06 financial year; by how much the income of the National Insurance Fund has been reduced in each year since the introduction of the climate change levy by the off-setting cuts in employers' contributions; and whether he plans to arrange for future proceeds of the levy to be transferred to the National Insurance Fund to pay for increases in pensions and other benefits. [2359]

John Healey: The climate change levy was introduced in 2001 with offsetting tax cuts for business, which included a 0.3 per cent. cut in employers' national insurance contributions. The information requested is given in the following table.

Climate change levy (CCL) revenues and value of 0.3 per cent. cut in employers' national insurance contributions (NICs)

£ million

	CCL revenues[1]	*Value of 0.3 per cent. cut in employers' NICs*[2]
2001–02	771	1,035
2002–03	826	1,125
2003–04	816	1,185
2004–05	[3]753	1,215
2005–06	[4]800	1,275

[1] On accruals basis. Based on CCL declarations on trader returns.
[2] *Source:* Based on HMT Tax Ready Reckoner.
[3] Provisional
[4] Expected

The Government are committed to enabling pensioners to share in the country's rising prosperity. Reforms to pensioner tax and benefits since 1997 have meant that pensioners on average are £29 per week better off and the poorest third of pensioners are £39 per week better off than they would have been under the 1997 system.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of deaths in each year since 2000 that were attributable to *Clostridium difficile*; and if he will make a statement. [3764]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Lidington, dated 13 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of deaths in each year since 2000 that were attributable to *Clostridium difficile*. (3764)

In the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), deaths involving enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile* can all be identified from the code A04.7. Enterocolitis is the commonest illness caused by *C. difficile* infection. For causes other than enterocolitis that are also known to be associated with *C. difficile*, it is not possible to identify from ICD codes alone the number of deaths where *C. difficile* actually contributed to the death. For this reason, the only routinely available mortality statistics on *C. difficile* are those where it was associated with enterocolitis.

The table below gives total mentions of *C. difficile* enterocolitis and the number where it was also the underlying cause of death for 2001 onwards. Comparable figures are not currently available before 2001, because no specific code exists in the Ninth Revision of the ICD.

The Office for National Statistics is working with the Health Protection Agency on a special study to identify the total number of deaths where *C. difficile* was mentioned on the death certificate.

Number of deaths where enterocolitis due to Clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate and the number of these mentions where it was also the underlying cause of death,[1] England and Wales, 2001–03[2]

	Total mentions	*Underlying cause*
2001	1,199	674
2002	1,417	751
2003	1,748	934

[1] Selected using the code A04.7 from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in the years 2001 to 2003.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

EC Budget

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the European Community Finances Statement on the EC budget for 2005. [3402]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The annual "European Community Finances" White Paper ("Statement on the 2005 EC Budget and measures to counter fraud and financial mismanagement") will be published on 23 June.

Finance Bodies (Orphan Assets)

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimated value is of the orphan assets of banks, building societies and insurance companies in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [3198]

(2) if he has plans to confiscate the orphan assets of the financial services sector; and if he will make a statement. [3202]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government announced in Budget 2005 that they continue to believe that it is right in principle that more should be done to reunite assets with their owners. Where assets and their owners cannot be reunited, the Government believe that the assets should be reinvested in society, as long as the original owners' entitlements to reclaim are preserved. As the Budget noted, the Government are engaged in constructive discussions with the banking industry to take this forward.

Looking ahead, the Government expect to agree with industry a common definition of an unclaimed asset, and for the industry to search their records and to set out the full value of their assets so defined, by the time of the 2005 pre-Budget report. The Government also expect the industry to explore what more could be done to reunite owners and assets, including the possibility of a National Register, and to set out how they will achieve this by the time of the 2005 pre-Budget report.

First-time Buyers (Northern Ireland)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his recently-announced shared-ownership scheme to help first time buyers who have been priced out of the housing market will extend to Northern Ireland. [2201]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The recently announced proposals are designed to address particular problems in England and will not apply in Northern Ireland. A shared ownership scheme—the Co-ownership scheme—already operates in Northern Ireland. The scheme assists first time buyers on marginal incomes to become home owners. The Department for Social Development has secured additional funding over the next three years for the scheme to provide almost £39 million over the period. This will help support around 2,400 applicants over the period.

G8 Summit

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken in the preparation for the G8 Summit to extend debt cancellation to *(a)* Peru and *(b)* other highly indebted countries with large numbers living in absolute poverty which are not on the Highly Indebted Poor Countries list; and if he will make a statement. [3344]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The debt of heavily indebted poor countries is addressed under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries' Initiative (HIPC). The UK continues to be absolutely committed to the rapid and full implementation of the HIPC Initiative to ensure that it delivers maximum debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

The appropriate process for official bilateral creditors to tackle the debt problems of non-HIPC countries facing external debt problems is through the Paris Club's Evian Approach.

Peru has rescheduled its external debt to Paris Club eight times since 1968. The last rescheduling was in 1996. Peru has not requested any further debt relief from

Paris Club creditors since then. If Peru were to do so, and its request was accepted, the UK would deliver its share of any debt relief agreed in the Paris Club.

Income Statistics (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual income was per person in each London borough in each year since 1997. [2493]

John Healey: Information on average annual income in each London borough for the years 1999–2000 to 2002–03 can be found in "Total income by borough and district or unitary authority (Table 3.14)" at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314

Similar information for 1997–98 and 1998–99 is not available.

International Finance Facility

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the incoming President of the World Bank on the international finance facility. [3062]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The IFF now has the support of almost 80 countries, including all the European members of the G7. The IFF has been discussed widely with the World Bank, including at the recent G8 Finance Ministers' Summit. The World Bank and IMF have noted that the IFF is technically feasible and the most advanced proposal to frontload aid and the 2005 World Bank Development Committee Communiqué noted that:

"... the analysis of technical feasibility of the IFF has created the conditions for the necessary political decisions on participation. We encourage interested donors to proceed with these proposals."

Late Tax Payment

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on *(a)* refunds, *(b)* compensation and *(c)* cancellation of interest payments for late payment of tax when the tax authorities find they have been in error in the amount levied. [3746]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The policy concerning financial redress in cases of error or delay by the former Inland Revenue is set out in their published Code of Practice 1 (COP1). The policy of the former HM Customs and Excise can be found in Notice 1000. Both leaflets can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs website. They will be replaced shortly with a new leaflet setting out the policy for the whole of HM Revenue and Customs.

Personal Wealth

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of personal wealth per head of population in each *(a)* region and *(b)* nation of the United Kingdom. [2837]

John Healey: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Adrian Sanders, dated 13 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the current level of personal wealth per head of population in the regions and countries of the United Kingdom. (2837)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compile total net worth for the household sector only for the United Kingdom as a whole and not for individual regions or countries. The latest estimates are for 2003, published as part of the 2004 edition of the UK National Accounts—The Blue Book. Estimates for 2004 will be published on 22 July 2005.

Table A:

	United Kingdom household sector net worth 2003
Total household net worth (£ billion)	5,477.8
Household net worth per head of population (£)	91,480

The total net worth is the sum of total non-financial assets and financial assets at the end of the reference period.

The household sector covers households, sole trader enterprises and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs), such as charities.

ONS do compile estimates of regional household income, the key series being gross disposable household income (GDHI). That is the amount of money that households have available for consumption expenditure or saving. The latest estimates are for 2003 and are consistent with the 2004 edition of the UK National Accounts. These are shown in table B.

Table B: Gross disposable household income for 2003

Geography	*Total GDHI (£ million)*	*GDHI per head of population (£)*
United Kingdom[1]	750,946	12,610
North East	27,393	10,787
North West	78,652	11,559
Yorkshire and the Humber	57,415	11,462
East Midlands	49,377	11,612
West Midlands	61,455	11,552
East of England	74,762	13,685
London	112,551	15,235
South East	115,267	14,265
South West	63,511	12,704
Wales	32,720	11,137
Scotland	59,439	11,753
Northern Ireland	18,403	10,809

[1] Excludes GDHI from the "extra regio" category which covers the contribution to GDHI from UK embassy staff and forces personnel stationed overseas

Premium Bonds

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions since 1995 the odds have been lengthened for winning on a premium bond holding; and if he will make a statement. [3172]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The odds on winning a prize on a premium bond holding have lengthened on 18 occasions since 1995, primarily as a result of a fall in interest rates during that period, which affects the overall size of the prize rate fund. The odds have also shortened six times since 1995.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Licensing Act

10. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likelihood of all licensed premises having applied for a new licence by 6 August. [3000]

James Purnell: There can be no guarantee that every business which needs to apply for grandfather rights under the Licensing Act 2003 will do so by 6 August. But I am monitoring the position closely with local authorities and the hospitality industry, and my Department is doing all that it reasonably can to ensure that all relevant businesses are aware of the deadline. I am confident that this will result in a high proportion of applications being made on time.

11. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from amateur sports and community clubs regarding the Licensing Act 2003. [3001]

James Purnell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received many representations on this subject. The Government have actively supported Community Amateur Sports Clubs through Lottery funding and tax benefits over recent years, and is taking full account of their concerns in implementing the Act. My officials are working closely with sport's representative bodies, and last met the Central Council for Physical Recreation on 5 April 2005.

20. **Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the application of the Licensing Act 2003 to carnivals. [3010]

James Purnell: The Act affects street carnivals only to the extent that any licensable activities, such as the provision of regulated entertainment or sale of alcohol, takes place. Where no licensable activities, as defined in the Act, are involved no licence is required. Given that carnivals are not mentioned within the Act, and the varied nature of each individual carnival, it is not possible to give a definitive, single answer as to whether carnivals are licensable or not. The Licensing Act devolves determination of these matters to the licensing authorities.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from the Local Government Association regarding the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [2788]

James Purnell: Representations have regularly been made by the Local Government Association at meetings of an advisory group, held by my officials, of which the Association is a member. The Advisory Group most recently met on 16 February, 15 March, 19 April and 16 May. I also chair a High Level Group to ensure the smooth running of the implementation of the 2003 Act on which the Association is also represented. That group met on 22 March, 4 May and 23 May 2005. My Department continues to work closely with the Association, and other local authority representatives, on the implementation of the 2003 Act.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications have been made in *(a)* South Shropshire and *(b)* Bridgnorth district council areas for the new licences introduced by the Licensing Act 2003; what estimate she has made of the number of applications in each council area which remain to be made; and if she will make a statement. [2795]

James Purnell: Information on the number of applications for converting existing licences into premises licences and club premises certificates received to date by licensing authorities under the Licensing Act 2003 is not kept by my Department. Licensing authorities, which are in the main local authorities, are responsible for administering and enforcing the new regime, which will come into effect in November. Information on local licence application levels should be available from the respective district or borough council.

Music (Government Support)

12. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on Government support for music. [3002]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to supporting music in all its forms. We are achieving this through increased investment—funding to music through Arts Council England has more than doubled since 1997 to over £100 million this year.

The Music Manifesto, launched in 2004, is bringing the music sector together to support our aims for music education.

We have set up the Creative Industries Intellectual Property Forum to look at IP issues affecting the creative sector including music.

And, through the Live Music Forum, we are working to ensure that opportunities for the promotion of live music are realised to the full.

London Olympic Bid

13. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress with the London bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. [3003]

Tessa Jowell: London's bid is in great shape. The publication of the International Olympic Committee's evaluation report last Monday reflects that. We are in a very strong position and we will be doing everything we can over the coming weeks to secure the greatest prize in sport.

14. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the planned sources of funding for the London Olympic Games are; and if she will make a statement. [3004]

Tessa Jowell: The costs of staging and operating the Games would be met by income from ticket sales, sponsorship and licensing and by a contribution from the International Olympic Committee.

To meet the infrastructure and capital costs of preparing for the Games, the Government and the Mayor of London have agreed a public sector funding package of up to £2.375 billion.

16. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the requirement for further infrastructure development to achieve a successful Olympic games in London in 2012. [3006]

Tessa Jowell: The candidature file submitted to the IOC in November 2004 included assessments of both the sporting infrastructure and of the services and utilities requirements within the Olympic park.

Slave Trade Abolition (Anniversary Celebration)

15. **Mr. Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to commemorate the 200th anniversary in 2007 of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire. [3005]

Mr. Lammy: We are considering with Home Office colleagues how best to mark the occasion but a great deal of work is already in hand. My Department will meet the £250,000 per year running costs of the new Slavery Gallery in Liverpool, due to open in 2007. Many of our museums and galleries and heritage sites are planning to mark the anniversary with special exhibitions and educational programmes.

Sport (Equality of Access)

17. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made on ensuring equality of access in sport. [3007]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are committed to promoting equality of access in sport for all, and are implementing a range of measures to help achieve this.

We have a PSA target to increase participation within priority groups of the general population, by 3 per cent. by 2008. At present, existing data on the levels of participation in the population are variable. However, we will measure progress on our target via a DCMS participation survey from autumn 2005.

In schools, our joint target with the DfES is to enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5 to 16-year-olds so that the percentage of schoolchildren in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25 per cent. in 2002 to 75 per cent. by 2006, and 85 per cent. by 2008, and to at least 75 per cent. in each School Sport Partnership by 2006.

The Equality Standard for Sport, launched last year, is a framework to guide sports and community organisations towards achieving equality. Its aim is to widen access and increase the participation and involvement in sport and physical activity from under-represented individuals, groups, and communities.

Broadcasting Regulations

18. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with Ofcom on the regulation of standards of decency in broadcasting. [3008]

James Purnell: Decisions on broadcast programme standards are a matter for Ofcom to determine independently of Government, according to the provisions of the Broadcasting and Communications Acts.

The Secretary of State was briefed by Ofcom about their proposals for the regulation of standards in broadcast content prior to publication of the new programme code.

Sporting Events (Policing Charges)

19. **Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received from sporting bodies about charges for policing major events; and what steps she is taking in conjunction with other Government Departments to ensure that such costs are, as far as practicable, *(a)* affordable and *(b)* in line with charges for other sporting and public events. [3009]

Mr. Caborn: I have recently received representations from Wigan Athletic A.F.C and the organisers of the Unity Cup about police charges for sporting events.

My Department continues to work closely with the Home Office about police charging for sporting events to ensure that as far as practical, such costs are fair and reasonable.

Active Spaces Scheme

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the costs have been of the development and operation of the Active Spaces scheme; and how many people have used it to date. [3605]

Mr. Caborn: Active Places is a free to use, on-line database of sports facilities in England.

The cost of Active Places will be £5.2 million over three years. These costs cover the initial development, updating of the data and hosting of the system. Active Places is joint funded by The Big Lottery Fund and Sport England.

The Active Places website had 106,576 visits in the period from its launch in July 2004 to April 2005. The Active Places database can be found on www.activeplaces.com

Analogue Transmissions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects analogue transmissions to be switched off. [2783]

James Purnell: As we said in our manifesto, we will achieve digital switchover between 2008 and 2012 ensuring universal access to high-quality, free-to-view and subscription digital TV. This will happen region by region, and we will make sure that the interests of elderly people and other vulnerable groups are protected.

Arts Promotion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government is taking to promote *(a)* theatre and *(b)* classical music. [2960]

Mr. Lammy: Government funding for the arts is channelled through Arts Council England (ACE), which operates at arm's length from the Government.

Arts Council England currently provide regular funding for 248 theatre companies in England, including producing and touring companies and presenting theatres. ACE have also published the National Policy for Theatre in England which provides a strategic framework and identifies priorities for both ACE and the sector.

Arts Council England currently provide regular funding of over £24 million for 68 classical music organisations. As well as increasing support for opera and symphony orchestras since 1998–99, ACE have increased support to chamber orchestras by almost 50 per cent. since 2003–04.

Departmental Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many trade union learning representatives there are in her Department. [3318]

Mr. Caborn: There are currently no trade union learning representatives in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Faith Awareness Training

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3809]

Mr. Caborn: All DCMS staff receive mandatory equal opportunities training which covers religion and belief. We have also issued detailed guidance to all staff.

Faith Communities

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent consultations have been carried out by her Department with representatives of faith communities; and if she will make a statement. [3228]

Mr. Caborn: One of the four Strategic Priorities of the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is to

> "increase and broaden the impact of culture and sport, to enrich individual lives, strengthen communities and improve the places where people live, now and for future generations".

Implicit in this is a commitment to ensure that all of our sectors, be it arts, sport, heritage, museums, libraries and archives reflect and are accessible by the wide range of communities in the UK including people of all faiths and none. Also one of the 10 commitments in our Five-Year Plan published this year is that we will consult the public on an unprecedented scale ensuring that we are open and accountable.

Faith communities have been an explicit key part of recent public consultations including the Lottery, BBC Royal Charter review, the Ecclesiastical Exemption Review and the Olympics.

DCMS Ministers and officials met with representatives of faith communities on a number of occasions in 2003–05 to discuss their views about the Gambling Bill.

DCMS also worked closely with the faith community in developing policies for the Communications Act, notably in relation to allowing religious groups to hold broadcasting licences.

The Central Religious Advisory Committee has been established to advise the BBC and Ofcom on religious broadcasting policy and comment on programmes once broadcast. Ofcom have also recently conducted research among people of different faiths about their perceptions of broadcast media.

12 of the 132 responses to our recent Culture at the Heart of Regeneration consultation were from faith based organisations.

Bodies such as the British Library have also been careful to consult faith representatives in the appropriate display of objects from those faiths.

Gambling Act

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has for secondary legislation under the Gambling Act 2005. [3372]

Mr. Caborn: We plan to bring forward subordinate legislation over the next two years with a view to bringing the Act fully into force in September 2007.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from what date local authorities will be able to make a resolution not to issue licences for casinos under the Gambling Act 2005. [3373]

Mr. Caborn: This date has yet to be determined. But any resolution will only apply to casino premises licences issued under the Act. The target date for such licences having effect is September 2007.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the role of the South East Regional Assembly is with regards to the Gambling Act 2005. [3374]

Mr. Caborn: The Act provides for the Secretary of State to designate areas in which local authorities may issue premises licences for new-style regional, large or small casinos. The Secretary of State will designate areas in the first phase on the basis of advice from an independent advisory panel. In respect of possible locations in the South East the panel will have the opportunity to consider the views of the Assembly.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what criteria casino licences will be allocated under the Gambling Act 2005. [3375]

Mr. Caborn: Casino operating and premises licences will be awarded by the Gambling Commission and licensing authorities on the basis of the principles set out in sections 70 and 153 of the 2005 Act respectively. Where there are more premises licence applications which meet the criteria than available licences, the authority will make its decision on the basis of which of the competing applications would in its opinion be likely to result in the greatest benefits to its area.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department plans to produce guidance for local authorities on their powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to pass a resolution not to issue a casino licence. [3376]

Mr. Caborn: We shall be discussing the need for guidance with the local authority associations.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in her Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if she will make a statement. [4129]

Mr. Caborn: The information is as follows.

(a) No laptops have ever been issued to Ministers by my Department.

(b) Special advisers have used two laptops in the last two years. Prior to that no departmental laptops were used by special advisers.

(c) Due to the turnover of staff and equipment, we do not hold records of laptop loans back to 1995. Our records show that DCMS currently has 109 laptops. Since 1998, the number of laptops lost by staff or stolen from staff is:

(i) Five lost

(ii) Two stolen.

No laptops have been stolen by staff.

Records of cost of use of equipment could not be collated without disproportionate cost.

Licensing (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* pubs and *(b)* night clubs have had their licences removed in each London borough in each year since 1997. [2472]

James Purnell: Data on licence revocations is collected every three years. This is collated by Court or Petty Session Division, rather than by borough or other local authority area. The data also relates to public houses only.

The total numbers of licences revoked in England and Wales, and in Greater London, were as follows for the years in which data has been collected since 1997 (all figures refer to the year ended 30 June):

	1998	*2001*	*2004*
England and Wales	165	99	186
Of which:			
Greater London	Not available	5	8

The figures for Greater London are analysed as follows:

2001 (by Court):

East Central (1 revocation: Highbury Corner)

South Westminster (1: Horseferry Road)

West London (1: West London)

Outer London (2: one each in *Barnet and Havering*)

2004 (by Petty Session Division):

North and South Westminster (2)

Barking (1)

Hackney and Tower Hamlets (2)

Haringey (1)

Harrow (1)

Wandsworth (1)

Lottery (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many National Lottery grants were given in each London borough in the last five years; and what the total value was. [2474]

Mr. Caborn: The figures are shown in the following tables.

	Barking and Dagenham	*Barnet*	*Bexley*	*Brent*	*Bromley*	*Camden*
2000						
Value (£)	1,813,12	7,343,012	811,786	2,873,930	2,560,062	49,976,818
Number	47	111	51	87	78	192
2001						
Value (£)	4,309,620	3,415,387	1,644,953	4,530,661	2,246,778	34,201,357
Number	43	73	29	81	58	178
2002						
Value (£)	5,287,510	3,941,772	5,996,042	13,082,506	2,113,724	12,403,143
Number	42	85	52	99	77	165
2003						
Value (£)	2,543,480	2,194,425	1,116,854	4,470,259	2,616,114	32,798,494
Number	75	78	29	103	65	213
2004						
Value (£)	3,348,471	1,891,593	1,909,612	5,874,536	1,663,514	16,554,214
Number	59	101	47	74	107	181
2005 to date						
Value (£)	191,490	542,422	53,466	66,975	1,147,084	3,236,024
Number	11	35	19	17	53	40

	City of London	Croydon	Ealing	Enfield	Greenwich	Hackney
2000						
Value (£)	982,252	5,435,244	2,711,076	1,273,193	14,401,969	5,967,748
Number	8	94	71	62	96	144
2001						
Value (£)	1,294,775	6,166,043	5,679,631	10,879,493	11,266,510	25,724,225
Number	9	93	77	73	104	163
2002						
Value (£)	2,934,793	2,885,745	3,914,013	2,151,941	6,576,662	14,901,958
Number	13	86	83	89	126	199
2003						
Value (£)	1,770,532	4,434,045	4,474,451	3,936,229	10,226,881	14,764,838
Number	20	110	83	103	96	224
2004						
Value (£)	2,321,859	1,289,672	1,660,605	11,268,932	3,232,473	6,204,253
Number	17	117	81	82	88	182
2005 to date						
Value (£)	116,986	130,901	1,151,627	760,095	16,000,328	2,029,636
Number	2	31	12	28	30	34

	Hammersmith and Fulham	Haringey	Harrow	Havering	Hillingdon	Hounslow
2000						
Value (£)	7,579,310	5,344,200	1,869,668	388,817	675,171	4,866,736
Number	73	105	60	44	39	104
2001						
Value (£)	16,040,691	9,607,805	1,374,048	988,103	1,601,905	2,342,117
Number	68	96	38	30	41	46
2002						
Value (£)	6,262,705	7,085,414	3,381,229	1,239,835	3,189,996	3,565,668
Number	86	100	50	39	45	78
2003						
Value (£)	4,190,496	3,275,527	1,813,133	1,464,325	1,632,283	3,536,130
Number	75	138	65	70	39	53
2004						
Value (£)	18,559,136	4,190,798	1,030,534	561,905	3,961,039	2,354,669
Number	78	117	52	62	63	55
200 to date						
Value (£)	716,662	1,136,432	127,542	985,553	181,779	65,180
Number	18	15	20	34	18	11

	Newham	Redbridge	Richmond upon Thames	Southwark	Sutton	Tower Hamlets
2000						
Value (£)	3,439,356	278,165	2,531,802	9,656,444	1,092, 823	19,881,127
Number	87	51	54	213	49	168
2001						
Value (£)	15,357,473	2,022,975	4,365,199	13,983,576	4,963, 318	16,835,823
Number	92	47	33	193	35	141
2002						
Value (£)	10,681,257	3,981,773	1,440,621	10,994,932	3,057, 242	13,037,675
Number	126	80	50	177	32	194
2003						
Value (£)	5,484,270	1,406,239	7,102,254	19,415,890	1,610, 387	9,081,972
Number	138	61	45	193	31	199

	Newham	Redbridge	Richmond upon Thames	Southwark	Sutton	Tower Hamlets
2004						
Value (£)	2,937,101	3,617,751	3,786,674	10,428,846	1,687, 329	9,777,955
Number	76	40	39	167	48	163
2005 to date						
Value (£)	409,210	55,055	73,063	2,060,180	69,993	2,853,244
Number	23	22	17	31	20	35

	Waltham Forest	Wandsworth	Westminster
2000			
Value (£)	2,519,605	6,224,978	20,665,288
Number	105	99	142
2001			
Value (£)	3,755,715	6,486,063	55,386,725
Number	73	73	137
2002			
Value (£)	2,252,251	4,931,570	50,967,681
Number	93	92	137
2003			
Value (£)	10,415,552	8,116,891	36,636,182
Number	134	86	133
2004			
Value (£)	5,728,391	4,927,863	12,706,735
Number	86	76	128
200 to date			
Value (£)	826,698	470,658	3,452,850
Number	22	28	63

The 'location' of the project is based on the postcode given by the applicant, which is not necessarily where the benefit of the award will be felt. For example no single London borough would describe where a theatre tour took place.

Museum Security

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Victoria and Albert Museum and *(b)* other national museums on security in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [3046]

Mr. Lammy: The V&A has discussed the need to bring forward planned investment in security. We have facilitated this and work is now under way. We have also provided some additional funding to support interim measures.

We advised sponsored museums in a letter of 5 November 2004 to undertake an urgent review of their existing security arrangements to establish whether any changes were needed. Subsequent attempts at theft from the British Museum and the Science Museum were foiled.

Following discussions with the Wallace Collection we allocated additional funds in February 2005 to enhance security at the museum.

Pigeon Racing

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will press for pigeon racing to be recognised as a sport. [4036]

Mr. Caborn: Decisions on whether particular activities and pastimes should be recognised as sports for official and funding purposes are made by unanimous agreement between the home country sports councils. As such it would be inappropriate for Government to intervene.

In the first instance, I would recommend a submission to the relevant sports council, outlining the case for pigeon racing. The sports council will be able to provide information on the criteria for recognition of an activity as a sport.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3547]

Mr. Caborn: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport delivers mandatory diversity training to all staff as part of the induction process which includes a session on the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. The total number of staff in post is 520 and the breakdown by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade is as follows.

Percentage

Grade	Ethnic minority[1]
SCS	4
Grade A	4
Grade B	9
Grade C	16
Grade D	30

[1] Ethnic minority staff as a percentage of staff who have declared their ethnicity rather than a percentage of total staff in post.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of her Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3548]

Mr. Caborn: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport strives to put diversity and inclusion at the heart of its work. In 2002 we published the DCMS Race Equality Scheme setting out how we would meet both our general and specific duties under the Race Relations

Act. At that time we also made our non-departmental bodies and other sponsored bodies aware of their responsibilities under the Act. The Race Equality Scheme is to be reviewed this year, and that review will include consideration of future monitoring procedures.

Racism in Football

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government is taking to tackle racism in football. [2959]

Mr. Caborn: The Government believes that there is no place for racism in football or in wider society.

The Government fully supports the initiatives undertaken by football, including the campaign Kick it Out and the charity Show Racism the Red Card, to help eradicate racism from the sport.

Through the Football Foundation, the Government (with its funding partners the FA and FA Premier League) provides £155,000 to the Kick it Out campaign, and £161,000 to Show Racism the Red Card.

Sport Across Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public money has been given to Sport Across Staffordshire in the last five years. [3335]

Mr. Caborn: The information you requested is provided in the following table:

Sport across Staffordshire funding

£

Award programme	*Lottery*	*Exchequer*	*Total*	*Year commitment made*				
				2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Active sports	1,319,945	—	1,319,945	—	860,463	459,482	—	—
County sports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Core funding	69,040	—	69,040	—	—	—	—	69,040
Exchequer grant	—	13,000	13,000	—	—	—	10,000	3,000
CSCS	—	214,112	214,112	—	—	—	80,638	133,474
Step into sport	—	21,775	21,775	—	—	—	—	21,775
Club links	—	6,500	6,500	—	—	—	—	6,500
Total	1,388,985	255,387	1,644,372	0	860,463	459,482	90,638	233,789

Sports Cabinet

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates the Sports Cabinet has met in the last two years; and who attended each meeting. [3646]

Mr. Caborn: Since June 2003 the Sports Cabinet has met on 23 October 2003 and 20 April 2004. Ministerial attendance at both the October and April meetings was: right hon. Tessa Jowell MP, right hon. Richard Caborn MP, Alun Pugh AM, Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport (Welsh Assembly); Frank McAveety MSP, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport (Scottish Executive); Angela Smith MP, (Northern Ireland). In addition, the following chairs of the Sports Councils also attended both meetings: Sue Campbell, UK Sport, Patrick Carter, Sport England, Professor Eric Saunders, Sports Council for Northern Ireland, Alistair Dempster, SportScotland. Anne Ellis, acting chair, Sports Council for Wales, attended the October meeting while Philip Carling, chair, Sports Council for Wales, attended the April meeting. In addition the following officials attended the October meeting to provide support to their respective Minister: Alec McGivan, Paul Heron, Debbie Lye, Colin Gibson, Margaret Evans, Arthur Emyr, John Gilmour, Karen Mitchell and Jack Palmer. Those officials who attended the April meeting were: Paul Bolt, Paul Heron, Stephen Hodgson, Colin Gibson, Margaret Evans, Arthur Emyr, John Gilmour, Dr. Aideen McGinley and Jack Palmer.

Swimming Pools (Parental Supervision)

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made in resolving issues surrounding parental supervision of children in swimming pools. [3607]

Mr. Caborn: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport met with key partners on 5 April to discuss the issues around supervision of children in swimming pools and will be announcing shortly the series of measures that were agreed at the meeting to resolve the problem.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government have taken to review the Institute of Sport and Recreation Management guidelines on parental supervision of children in swimming pools. [3647]

Mr. Caborn: The Institute of Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM) is an independent organisation and the Government have no authority to review the guidance it provides for its members.

However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport met with key partners, including the ISRM, on 5 April to discuss the issues around supervision of children. The scope for inappropriate application of ISRM's guidance was among the issues discussed. The Department will be announcing shortly the series of measures that were agreed at the meeting to resolve the problem.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Government have taken steps to instigate research into the requirement for parental supervision of children in swimming baths. [3648]

Mr. Caborn: Following the meeting of 5 April with key experts, the Government will set out shortly the steps being taken to further research the issue of parental supervision in swimming pools.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the outcome was of the meeting on 5 April between her Department, the Health and Safety Executive and the Right to Swim Campaign. [3660]

Mr. Caborn: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will circulate a note of the meeting to attendees shortly alongside announcing the measures agreed at the meeting to deal with the issue of child admission policies for swimming pools.

Television Licences (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many successful prosecutions there have been of people for operating a television without a valid television licence in each Northern Ireland parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. [2807]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Wembley

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the construction of Wembley Stadium. [2452]

Mr. Caborn: We have been assured that Wembley Stadium will be completed in time to host the FA cup final in May 2006, as originally planned.

This is an extremely complex project that will ensure that Wembley remains one of the world's great sporting venues and a fitting stadium for football in the 21st century.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date officials from her Department last met the Football Association to discuss Wembley Stadium. [2453]

Mr. Caborn: DCMS officials attended the scheduled meeting of the Wembley National Stadium Primary Stakeholders Group on 17 May 2005. A representative of the Football Association was present at that meeting.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Agents

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* services and *(b)* advice UK Trade and Investment gives to companies with regard to the use of agents. [2556]

Ian Pearson: As part of UK Trade and Investment's overarching business support role, companies are advised on the most effective ways of employing agents. This advice is given on a case-by-case basis and may include training programmes, mentoring by UKTI's international trade advisers, trade seminars or referral to trade associations and chambers of commerce.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* security checks, *(b)* vetting procedures and *(c)* other precautions are taken by UK Trade and Investment before an agent is included on the list of agents it provides to British companies. [2343]

Ian Pearson: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) do not hold a central list of agents or any other potential business partners. Bespoke lists of agents and other potential business partners can be provided direct to UKTI customers at their request. UKTI customers are then expected to undertake their own due diligence. UKTI provide support and advice on how to trade internationally but do not make commercial judgments for a company. Specific advice on agent's validity or appropriateness is ultimately a commercial judgment for the company.

Arms Sales (Indonesia)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will ask the National Audit Office to conduct an investigation into the Export Credits Guarantee Department's decision to underwrite the Alvis armoured vehicle and Hawk deals with Indonesia, with particular reference to the role of agents. [1668]

Ian Pearson: On 25 February 2005 the National Audit Office (NAO) met with the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) to discuss the decision to underwrite the Alvis armoured vehicle and Hawk deals with Indonesia and to review certain papers supporting the decision.

On 3 May, having satisfied itself that ECGD had complied with the assessment procedures in force at the time the applications for export cover referred to above were being considered, the NAO wrote to ECGD to confirm that it did not intend to make any further inquiries at this time.

Bankruptcies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* personal and *(b)* company bankruptcies there were in each London borough in each of the last three years for which figures are available; what assessment the Department has made of recent changes in the numbers; and if he will make a statement. [2468]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table records the numbers of individual bankruptcy orders and company compulsory liquidations in the London region classified according to official receivers' offices from 2002 to 2004.

Figures are not separately available for each London borough.

Numbers of compulsory insolvencies recorded in the London official receivers offices, 2002—04[1]

Annual totals	*Bankruptcy orders*	*Company compulsory liquidations*
2002	1,457	1,147
2003	1,933	864
2004	4,246	1,114

[1] The 2004 London figure includes Public Interest Unit (PIU) and Carousel, which together amount to 15 bankruptcies and 120 company compulsory liquidations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies were declared bankrupt in each of the past five years in (i) the East Riding of Yorkshire and (ii) England. [3589]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Compulsory insolvency figures are only available on the basis of the official receivers' office dealing with the cases, therefore it is not possible to separate those pertaining to the East Riding of Yorkshire or England exactly. (i) The first table gives annual figures for the number of individual bankruptcies and company compulsory liquidations dealt with by the official receivers' office in Hull, which covers the county courts of Beverley, Great Grimsby, Grimsby, Hull, Kingston-upon-Hull, Malton, Scarborough, Scunthorpe, Whitby and York. The Hull office covers the majority of the East Riding of Yorkshire but also includes a number of county courts from neighbouring counties/unitary authorities. A small part of the East Riding of Yorkshire (the county court of Goole) is administered by the official receivers' office at Sheffield.

Compulsory insolvencies registered at the official receivers' office in Hull, 2000–04

	Individual bankruptcies	*Company compulsory liquidations*
2000	796	91
2001	907	86
2002	926	96
2003	906	96
2004	1,129	72

(ii) The table gives the totals for individual bankruptcies and company compulsory liquidations for official receivers' offices located in England for the past five years. This may not provide an accurate record of the numbers of bankrupt individuals actually resident in England or insolvent companies registered in England, because the boundaries of the official receivers' offices differ from those for standard geographies.

Compulsory insolvencies registered at the official receivers' office in England, 2000–04

	Individual bankruptcies	*Company compulsory liquidations*
2000	20,522	4,734
2001	22,526	4,508
2002	23,274	6,046
2003	26,967	5,065
2004	34,628	4,444

Centrica plc

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with Centrica plc about the provision of an energy park at Langage, Plymouth, pursuant to the terms of the licence granted by his Department. [3030]

Malcolm Wicks: None.

Coal Health Claims

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which Minister signed the coal health agreements in 1999 with *(a)* Vendside and *(b)* the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. [2405]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* The then Minister for Energy and Industry, the right hon. Member for Leeds, West approved the signing, by coal health claims officials, of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Vibration White Finger handling agreements.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many meetings have taken place between his Department and Clare Walker of Vendside since 1998. [2518]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* Officials from the Department's Coal Liabilities Unit meet with the UDM to discuss operational issues on approximately a monthly basis. Other ad hoc meetings have taken place when necessary.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what investigations have been instigated by his Department into *(a)* Walker and Co (Claims Management) Ltd. and *(b)* Indiclaim Ltd. concerning charging for coalminers compensation. [2520]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* The Department has not instigated any investigations into either Walker and Co (Claims Management) Ltd. or Indiclaim Ltd.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which 20 solicitors received the highest number of deceased miners' claims in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003 and *(d)* 2004. [2665]

Malcolm Wicks: The solicitors who received the most claims in relation to deceased miners are as set out in the following tables:

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease 2001

Number	*Solicitors*[1]	*Claims registered*[2]
1	Mark Gilbert Morse	4,269
2	Thompsons	1,314
3	Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	895
4	Hugh James Ford Simey	822
5	Raleys Solicitors	564
6	Browell Smith and Co	489
7	Moss Solicitors	170
8	Graysons	169
9	Beresfords Solicitors	166
10	Watson Burton	155
11	Meloy Whittle Robinson	123
12	The Legal Warehouse	111
13	J M Skinner Solicitors	108
14	Ingrams Solicitors	87
15	Corries	84
16	Lopian Wagner Solicitors	74
17	Towells Solicitors	74
18	AMS Law	74
19	Colemans Solicitors	70
20	Mortons Solicitors	70

2002

Number	Solicitors[1]	Claims registered[2]
1	Thompsons	1,626
2	Mark Gilbert Morse	781
3	Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	557
4	Beresfords Solicitors	556
5	Browell Smith and Co	439
6	Raleys Solicitors	437
7	The Legal Warehouse	234
8	Corries	194
9	Ingrams Solicitors	172
10	Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	152
11	Moss Solicitors	134
12	Graysons	126
13	Hugh James Ford Simey	120
14	Mortons Solicitors	117
15	Avalon	84
16	Gorvin Smith Fort	72
17	Atteys	71
18	Morisons Solicitors	62
19	Emsleys Solicitors	60
20	Pannone and Partners	55

2003

Number	Solicitors[1]	Claims registered[2]
1	Hugh James Ford Simey	13,999
2	Beresfords Solicitors	10,160
3	Barber and Co	7,084
4	Mark Gilbert Morse	5,233
5	Avalon	2,676
6	Thompsons	2,248
7	Watson Burton	2,109
8	Onyems and Partners	1,547
9	Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	1,519
10	Raleys Solicitors	1,306
11	Corries	1,114
12	Birchall Blackburn	1,077
13	Ingrams Solicitors	1,000
14	Browell Smith and Co	844
15	Proddow and Mackay Solicitors	827
16	The Legal Warehouse	820
17	Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	696
18	Wake Smith	646
19	BRM Solicitors	594
20	Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	474

2004

Number	Solicitors[1]	Claims registered[2]
1	Hugh James Ford Simey	9,949
2	Avalon	8,744
3	Beresfords Solicitors	6,940
4	Raleys Solicitors	5,777
5	Thompsons	5,406
6	Delta Legal	5,056
7	Browell Smith and Co	4,682
8	Birchall Blackburn	3,401
9	Corries	2,790
10	Mark Gilbert Morse	2,659
11	Barber and Co	2,351
12	Hilary Meredith Solicitors	1,927
13	1 Legal Solicitors	1,850
14	Recompense Ltd	1,722
15	Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	1,572
16	Irwin Mitchell	1,551
17	Bailey Bravo Jobling	1,532
18	Ingrams Solicitors	1,308
19	Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	1,188
20	The Legal Warehouse	1,080

[1] Top twenty solicitors are in descending order and based on the number of claims received in the year. Claim receipts are those claims that are fully registered, i.e. exclude pool of claims accepted with minimum data, awaiting further information to permit cross-referencing and duplicate checks prior to full registration.
[2] Claims registered reflects the total number of deceased claims registered, i.e. does not include claims that were registered live but have died since.

Vibration white finger
2001

Number	Solicitors[1]	Claims registered[2]
1	Browell Smith and Co	12
2	Union of Democratic Mineworkers	8
3	Thompsons	4
4	The Paul Rooney Partnership	3
5	Latham and Co Solicitors	3
6	Graysons	1
7	McConville O'Neill	1
8	Colemans Solicitors	1
9	Raleys Solicitors	1
10	Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	1
11	Mark Gilbert Morse	1
12	Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	1
13	Frank Alien Pennington Solicitors	1
14	Furley Page	1

2002

Number	Solicitors[1]	Claims registered[2]
1	Beresfords Solicitors	391
2	Hugh James Ford Simey	349
3	Thompsons	342
4	Towells Solicitors	239
5	Graysons	148
6	Union of Democratic Mineworkers	147
7	Moss Solicitors	97
8	Raleys Solicitors	93
9	AMS Law	76
10	Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	75
11	The Legal Warehouse	56
12	Browell Smith and Co	46
13	Irwin Mitchell	42
14	O H Parsons	27
15	Motions Solicitors	22
16	Ingrams Solicitors	18
17	Pannone and Partners	15
18	Meloy Whittle Robinson	15
19	Atteys	15
20	Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	12

2003

Number	Solicitors[1]	Claims registered[2]
1	Thompsons	208
2	Union of Democratic Mineworkers	113
3	Beresfords Solicitors	105
4	Hugh James Ford Simey	78
5	Watson Burton	77
6	Raleys Solicitors	67
7	Atteys	53
8	Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	53
9	Graysons	42
10	T S Edwards and Son Solicitors	40
11	AMS Law	33
12	The Legal Warehouse	31
13	Hopkins	30
14	Browell Smith and Co	26
15	Corries	16

2003

Number	*Solicitors*[1]	*Claims registered*[2]
16	Towells Solicitors	15
17	Pannone and Partners	13
18	Furley Page	13
19	Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	11
20	Mortons Solicitors	11

2004

Number	*Solicitors*[1]	*Claims registered*[2]
1	AMS Law	5
2	Beresfords Solicitors	1
3	Corries	1
4	Mortons Solicitors	1

[1] Top twenty solicitors are in descending order and based on the number of claims received in the year.
[2] Claims registered reflects the total number of deceased claims registered, i.e. does not include claims that were registered live but have died since.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many deceased miners' claims were submitted by Vendside in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [2667]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of claims submitted by Vendside is as follows:

Total deceased claims registered	*COPD*	*VWF*	*Total*
2003	59	113	172
2004	46	0	46
Total	105	113	218

Notes:
1. Claims registered reflects the total of deceased claims registered, i.e. does not include claims that were registered live but have died since.
2. Claim receipts are those claims that are fully registered, i.e. exclude pool of claims accepted with minimum data, awaiting further information to permit cross-referencing and duplicate checks prior to full registration.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many deceased miners' claims were submitted by *(a)* Beresfords, *(b)* Wake Smith, *(c)* AMS Law and *(d)* Moss solicitors in 2004. [2668]

Malcolm Wicks: Deceased miners claims submitted in 2004 were as follows:

Solicitor	*COPD*[1]	*VWF*[1]
AMS Law	816	5
Beresfords Solicitors	6,940	1
Moss Solicitors	125	0
Wake Smith	87	0
Total	7,968	6

[1] Claims registered reflects the total of deceased claims registered, i.e. does not include claims that were registered live but have died since.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what requests he has made to Wake Smith solicitors to repay monies to his Department following payments by Wake Smith solicitors to Indiclaim Ltd in connection with the miners' industrial disease compensation scheme. [2669]

Malcolm Wicks: No such requests have been made.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many solicitors' firms have claimed back money from his Department while paying fees to *(a)* Walker and Co. Claims Management Ltd. and *(b)* Indiclaim Ltd. in connection with the miners' industrial disease compensation scheme. [2670]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department's claims handlers are not informed which solicitors' firms make payments to Walker and Co. Claims Management Ltd. and Indiclaim Ltd.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many deceased miners' claims were submitted from *(a)* Bassetlaw constituency, *(b)* Mansfield constituency, *(c)* Nottinghamshire, *(d)* East Midlands and *(e)* Yorkshire in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2004. [2671]

Malcolm Wicks: The numbers requested are as follows:

	2003		*2004*	
Solicitor	*COPD*	*VWF*	*COPD*	*VWF*
Bassetlaw constituency	629	28	635	1
Mansfield constituency	586	35	645	0
Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire	306	154	493	0
Yorkshire	17,011	340	21,625	6
Total	18,532	557	23,398	7

Notes:
1. Claims registered reflect the total of deceased claims registered, i.e. does not include claims that were registered live but have died since.
2. Statistics for Bassetlaw and Mansfield are based on claimant postcode for the relative constituency. Statistics for Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire and Yorkshire are based on deceased claims registered in that area by solicitor postcode.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims for dispersement payments have been refused to Richmonds solicitors. [2672]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department's claims handlers do not record this information.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department gave authority for the claims handling agreement with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to be run by Vendside Ltd. [2707]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has always understood that Vendside are the Union for Democratic Mineworkers' claims handling agents and are therefore entitled to handle claims on its behalf.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions took place with the Treasury on the VAT implications of his Department's agreement with Vendside Ltd. [2729]

Malcolm Wicks: No such discussions have taken place.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department has referred the matters connected with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and Vendside Ltd. which it is investigating to the National Audit Office. [2730]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has made no such referral.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what audit his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* commissioned into (i) whether there has been abuse of deceased coalminers' claims for industrial disease and (ii) what potential exists for such abuse. [2731]

Malcolm Wicks: Procedures are in place to detect and prosecute fraudulent claims. In schemes of this nature, there is always the possibility that an individual will seek to obtain a payment to which he is not entitled.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which 20 solicitors have received the highest average payments per claim for work done in connection with deceased miners' claims. [2732]

Malcolm Wicks: The solicitors with the highest average fees for deceased miners' claims are as follows:

Number	*Solicitor*	*Deceased settlements*[1]	*Total solicitors costs paid (£)*	*Average solicitors costs paid (£)*
1	Frank Allen Pennington Solicitors	1	1,720	1,720
2	Branton Bridge	1	1,397	1,397
3	Ben Hoare Bell and Co Solicitors	1	859	859
4	Banner Jones Middleton	1	737	737
5	Thompson and Co Solicitors	4	1,606	402
6	Raleys Solicitors	57	19,522	342
7	Mortons Solicitors	8	2,302	288
8	Simpson Millar Solicitors	3	766	255
9	Graysons	33	7,921	240
10	Latham and Co Solicitors	5	1,175	235
11	Pannone and Partners	18	4,100	228
12	Thompsons	148	20,990	42
13	Watson Burton	22	3,071	140
14	O H Parsons	24	2,629	110
15	Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	10	999	100
16	Browell Smith and Co	93	6,872	74
17	Hopkins	19	1,105	58
18	AMS Law	60	3,165	53
19	Atteys	37	1,941	52
20	Ingrams Solicitors	15	588	39

[1] Deceased settlements reflect total settlements on claims registered as deceased, i.e. does not include claims that were registered live but have died since. Total settlements are reported, encompassing claims settled by payment and denial/withdrawal.

Note:

No costs are payable to solicitors where the claim is settled by denial or withdrawal.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many employees of AON Irisc had previously worked for the National Coal Board on the date of the signing of the DTI/Irisc contract for coal health claims. [2733]

Malcolm Wicks: At this time, Irisc employed approximately 120 staff of which about 78 had worked for the British Coal Corporation.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reasons his Department signed coal health agreements with both Vendside and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. [2735]

Malcolm Wicks: Following the judgments against British Coal in both the Vibration White Finger and respiratory disease litigations, the High Court ordered the DTI to set up schemes, in agreement with miners' solicitors, to assess compensation for both types of claim. Claims had by then been registered through the Claimants Solicitors Group (the CSG), some of which were sponsored by the main mining unions, the NUM and NACODS. The UDM had also registered a large number of claims directly on behalf of their members, through their dedicated claims handling company, Vendside Limited. The CSG and the UDM were unable to work together or enter into single arrangements for historical reasons. The legal advice received by the Department was that it was appropriate to enter into separate claims handling arrangements with the CSG and the UDM, provided that the compensation delivered to the claimant under both schemes was the same.

Vendside Limited were, at the time of entering into the claims handling arrangements, the vehicle through which the UDM presented claims on behalf of their members. Vendside Limited entered into the Vibration White Finger claims, handling arrangement for and on behalf of the UDM. The legal advice received at the time was that Vendside Limited had authority to enter into arrangement for and on behalf of the UDM.

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding the Medical Research Council has made available in each year since 1997 for research into complex regional pain syndrome. [230]

Alan Johnson: The MRC has not directly funded any research into complex regional pain syndrome in the period since 1997. However, in 2002-03, the Council spent £1.4 million on research into pain and pain management, which may lead to further understanding of the mechanisms involved.

Government do not prescribe to individual research councils what research they fund. Research excellence and importance to health are the primary considerations in MRC's funding decisions. Research proposals received by MRC undergo full peer review and assessment by one of the MRC's research boards.

Crude Oil

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage change in crude oil production from the UK occurred between January and March 2004 and January and March 2005; and what assessment the Department has made as to whether were this trend to continue throughout 2005, the UK would produce more or less oil than it consumed. [3731]

Malcolm Wicks: Provisional data for 2005 suggest that crude oil production fell by 12 per cent. between the first quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005. A more detailed analysis is due to be published on 30 June in the June edition of Energy Trends, which will be available in the Libraries of the House.

Since peaking in 1999, indigenous oil production has been gradually declining as UKCS reserves deplete. New fields are expected to start production from the latter half of 2005 and consequently the decline in UK crude production is projected to plateau before

reverting back to its gradual decline from 2008. The UK is still anticipated to become a net importer of crude oil and petroleum products by around 2010.

Discrimination Law Review

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the terms of reference are for the Discrimination Law Review; who is on the reference group for the review; when the review will start; who will lead the review; and what consultation the review will hold with *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* the public and *(c)* relevant pressure groups. [3756]

Meg Munn: Today the terms of reference for the Discrimination Law Review and the terms of reference and list of the members of the Reference Group have been laid in the Libraries of the House.

We are currently recruiting a team to commence work on the review, which will be led by the Women and Equality Unit in the Department of Trade and Industry. The Women and Equality Unit will be working closely with the other key equality Departments, for example, DWP, Home Office and DCA.

We will consult as appropriate with relevant bodies and stakeholders on the very wide range of interests concerned throughout the review.

Energy White Paper

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what timescale he is applying to the review of the Energy White Paper, with particular reference to nuclear fission. [1501]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government remain committed to the framework for energy policy set out in the Energy White Paper in 2003. However, we keep progress towards our energy policy goals under review. One example is the Climate Change Programme Review, which is already showing that we will need to do more to reach our domestic goal for carbon reductions and we will be considering the options for correcting this shortfall.

The Energy White Paper set out our policy in relation to nuclear fission. It did not make proposals for building new nuclear power stations but did not rule out the possibility that at some point in the future new nuclear build might be necessary if we are to meet our carbon targets.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish the annual review of the Energy White Paper. [1604]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 7 June 2005]*: The Government expect to publish their second annual report on implementation of the Energy White Paper in the summer.

Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad Scheme

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with *(a)* clothing manufacturers, *(b)* clothing exporters, *(c)* the Scottish Executive and *(d)* Scottish Enterprise regarding UK small and medium enterprises participating in exhibitions and missions in export markets under the Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [1181]

Ian Pearson: UK Trade and Investment has had discussions on the future of exhibition support with representatives of the clothing and many other sectors and with Scottish Development International. Their views are being taken into account in work on the revision of the scheme.

Export Control Organisation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to make an announcement on the future of the Export Control Organisation. [2333]

Malcolm Wicks: The matter is still under consideration. An announcement will be made as soon as practicable.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* information and *(b)* training the Export Control Organisation has provided for UK defence exporters concerning bribery and corruption. [2344]

Malcolm Wicks: None. Awareness activities on this subject are carried out by other branches of Government.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether companies applying for a licence to the Export Control Organisation are required to provide details of agent's commission that will be paid on the contract for which a licence is sought. [2555]

Malcolm Wicks: No. DTI requires information relating only to the potential export.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Export Credits Guarantee Department Pilot Trading Fund was launched; what reviews of the Pilot Fund will be undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [2655]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 9 June 2005]*: The Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD's) Pilot Trading Fund was launched on 4 April 2005.

The Secretary of State will consider the suitability of trading fund status as a means of financing ECGD's operations, taking into account a review of the experience gained operating as a pilot trading fund, including ECGD's performance against statutory requirements, and the results of a formal public consultation.

If a decision is taken for ECGD to move to a statutory trading fund, a Trading Fund Order will be laid before the House in 2007.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many submissions have been provided to the consultation on Export Credits Guarantee Department anti-bribery and corruption procedures since December 2004; and if he will make a statement. [2656]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* One written and two oral (to be followed by written) representations have thus far been received. The consultation closes on 18 June 2005.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much in costs he estimates will be paid to the plaintiffs, the Corner House, in respect of his Department's settlement of the case relating to consultation on Export Credit's Guarantee Department forms. [2811]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* ECGD has not at the present time reached agreement with the Corner House as to the amounts claimed.

Fuel Poverty (Yorkshire)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* children and *(b)* elderly people were living in fuel poor households in the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the past five years. [3588]

Alun Michael: Fuel poverty statistics are only available at Government office region level. Latest available figures are sourced from the 2001 English House Condition Survey and show that in 2001, 238,000 households in Yorkshire (11 per cent. of all households in Yorkshire) were in fuel poverty. This statistic cannot be broken down further.

In England as a whole in 2001, 210,000 households with children were in fuel poverty (3 per cent. of all households with children), while 904,000 households with someone over 60 were in fuel poverty (15 per cent. of all households with someone over 60).

Statistics giving information for 2003 will be published in the Third Annual Progress Report on the Fuel Poverty Strategy. This information is not available for any other of the past five years.

Inward Investment

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of inward investment within the EU has been received by *(a)* the UK, *(b)* France and *(c)* Germany in each of the last five years. [1644]

Ian Pearson: The latest figures available for the proportion of inward investment within the EU that has been received by *(a)* the UK, *(b)* France and *(c)* Germany is shown in the tables.

Foreign direct investment inward stock by host economy

US$ millions

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
European Union Total	1,806,817	2,257,701	2,441,449	2,899,795	3,335,454
France	244,667	259,775	295,311	386,540	433,521
Germany	299,705	470,933	424,304	531,738	544,604
United Kingdom	385,146	438,631	506,686	568,260	672,015

Percentage share of EU total

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
European Union Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
France	13.5	11.5	12.1	13.3	13.0
Germany	16.6	20.9	17.4	18.3	16.3
United Kingdom	21.3	19.4	20.8	19.6	20.1

Note:
Data includes EU intra investment sourced from UNCTAD world investment report 2004.

Manufacturing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on manufacturing output. [1855]

Alun Michael: Manufacturing output increased by 0.9 per cent. between March and April but declined by 1.4 per cent. on the three-month moving average and by 0.7 per cent. in the three months to April compared with the same period last year. It is important to recognise that manufacturing output data can be volatile, and prone to large revisions over time. Almost all the major independent forecasters are forecasting that output will grow in 2005 for the third successive year.

Manufacturing remains vital to the UK economy, and the Government want a successful manufacturing sector producing high value-added products. We are committed to providing the right support through the manufacturing strategy, which sets out an action plan to develop the sector and help more and more companies make the transition to high value manufacturing.

National Power Provision

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has received from Yorkshire Electricity Distribution Limited the information concerning power cuts in the East Riding of Yorkshire referred to in his answer of 30 January 2004, *Official Report*, columns 589–90W. [3236]

Malcolm Wicks: Yorkshire Electricity Distribution Limited have advised the following numbers of power failures in the areas indicated in each of the five years ending 2003.

Area	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Howden	15	13	11	18	10
Analby/Kirkella/Willerby	42	43	34	19	17
South Cave/North Cave	13	18	18	12	21
Cottingham	34	29	16	16	22
Eastrington	3	9	6	10	19
Brough	25	19	12	4	2
North Ferriby/Swanland	10	7	12	8	6
Holme on Spalding Moor	11	8	16	15	7

Natural Gas

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his policy is for protecting natural gas supplies being imported into the UK from the *(a)* former Soviet Union and *(b)* Middle East up to 2020. [2978]

Malcolm Wicks: As set out in the White Paper "Our Energy Future—creating a low carbon economy" published in February 2003, the Government believes that allowing the free operation of a competitive UK market, within an appropriate regulatory framework, is the most efficient way to ensure security of gas supply. Commercial operators have every incentive to ensure diverse sources of gas, supply routes and entry points so as to reduce the risks arising from supply interruption from any one source. The current UK gas market arrangements are already delivering a number of competing gas import projects, potentially delivering gas from such diverse sources as Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia, Algeria, Qatar, and other Liquefied Natural Gas exporters.

We also engage with key producers, both bilaterally and multilaterally, including those in the middle east and the former Soviet Union. For example, the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue encompasses discussion across all energy sectors. We believe that action with Russia to improve energy efficiency in both extraction and use of energy could have a major impact on the amount of oil and gas available for export. This would benefit the EU's security of supply but would also have a very positive effect on the Russian economy and environment. During our EU presidency we aim to re-invigorate the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue to promote investment energy efficiency, network development and energy trade.

An important part of our engagement with energy producing and transit countries is through the multilateral Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which promotes the rule of law in energy trade, investment and transit between its contracting parties and thereby improves security of energy supply. ECT signatories comprise all of Europe, all the former Soviet Union and others. Since 1999 members have been negotiating a Protocol intended to supplement existing ECT provisions on energy transit by offering negotiated access to pipelines and grids. However, differences between the EU and Russia on key outstanding issues have prevented the Transit Protocol from being concluded. As part of our EU presidency union, the UK will work closely with all relevant parties to try to conclude the Transit Protocol negotiations, although success remains dependent on the EU and Russia being able to resolve their differences.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of the UK's energy needs are met by natural gas; and what the forecast is for *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2020. [2979]

Malcolm Wicks: Forty one per cent of the UK's energy needs in 2004 were met by natural gas. According to the latest energy projections, the corresponding figures for 2010 and 2020 are 41 per cent. and 46 per cent. respectively.

Energy projections are available at the following websites: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/uep2004.pdf which provides detailed estimates to 2010 and http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/uep_addendum.pdf which provides an overview of projections to 2020.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from where he expects natural gas used in the UK to be sourced in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2020; and in what quantities. [2980]

Malcolm Wicks: As set out in the White Paper "Our Energy Future—creating a low carbon economy" published in February 2003, the Government believe that allowing the free operation of a competitive UK market, within an appropriate regulatory framework, is the most efficient way to ensure security of gas supply. Commercial operators have every incentive to ensure diverse sources of gas, supply routes and entry points so as to reduce the risks arising from supply interruption from any one source. The current UK gas market arrangements are already delivering a number of competing gas import projects, potentially delivering gas from such diverse sources as Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia, Algeria, Qatar, and other Liquefied Natural Gas exporters.

The latest Joint Energy Security of Supply report, published in November 2004, gives DTI's forecast of UK gas demand for 2004–13. Forecast demand in 2010 and 2013 is 94 billion cubic metres (bcm) and 98 bcm respectively (net of producers' own use). There are existing import facilities into the UK from Norway and via the UK-Belguim Interconnector, and the report notes that perhaps 40 per cent. of UK demand might be met by imports in 2010 and 80 per cent. in 2020. It also records the capacities of the publicly announced proposed new import facilities for the UK. These are expected to be in place before 2010.

Project	Estimated annual capacity in bcm
Langeled South Pipeline (Lange Gas field development in Norway)	25
Statfjord Late Life	5
Compressors at Zeebrugge in Belgium to increase import capacity into the UK	15
Interconnector from Balgzand (Netherlands) to Bacton	17
Isle of Grain liquefied natural gas (LNG) import facility	14
Milford Haven LNG import facility (1)	6
Milford Haven LNG import facility (2)	10

This report can be found at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/jess/jessreport5.pdf.

Where the gas actually flows from will be a reflection of commercial decisions.

Nuclear Industry

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the future costs of ensuring the secure status of *(a)* nuclear installations to the end of their decommissioning and *(b)* nuclear materials until they are no longer useable in a malevolent fashion; and what measures have been put in place to ensure such future security. [2082]

Malcolm Wicks: Security measures are the responsibility of those licensed to run nuclear installations. The licensees bear the cost of these security measures. For those sites for which the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency is responsible, these costs are included in the lifecycle baselines prepared by each site. These are updated annually and summaries posted on the NDA website. The 2005 summaries will appear on the website in November. Security is regulated under the Nuclear Installations Security Regulations 2003 (NISR2003), implemented by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security; the Security Regulator. NISR2003 will cease to apply, and cease to be appropriately enforced, only when an installation no longer requires to be licensed. In practical terms this means that strict security compliance will be required for the lifetime of each nuclear installation. As to what measures are in place, it is not Government policy to discuss the details of security measures at nuclear installations, as this information could potentially be of use to terrorists.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) whether it is his policy that all existing nuclear sites should be fully cleaned up to a standard allowing unrestricted use when they cease to be used for operational purposes; [1486]

(2) whether it is his policy that the clean-up of nuclear sites should always follow the Best Practicable Environmental Option. [1487]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department published a statement of the UK Government and devolved Administration's policy on the decommissioning of all nuclear facilities in September 2004. The document: "The Decommissioning of the UK Nuclear Industry's Facilities" is available on the Department's website (dti.gov.uk). The statement covers all aspects of decommissioning operations and strategies and the need to consider the applicability of the Best Practicable Environmental Option to sites as part of the decommissioning process.

Private finance projects

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the Private Finance Initiative and Public Private Partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2374]

Alan Johnson: The Department has two PFI/PPP contracts. They are *(a)* the provision of IT services within the Department (ELGAR) running until 2013/2014 and *(b)* Constructionline which provides information on approved contractors within the construction industry. There are no further planned PFI/PPP projects.

Royal Mail Services

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of first class letters posted in the East Riding of Yorkshire met Royal Mail's online delivery target in the last year for which figures are available. [3590]

Barry Gardiner: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. The chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the future of the universal service obligation following Postcomm's recommendations on the future cost of first class post. [3090]

Barry Gardiner: DTI Ministers and officials meet with representatives from Royal Mail on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues, including regulatory issues.

Maintenance of the universal postal service is the primary statutory duty of Postcomm.

Strategic Petroleum and Oil Reserves

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of days of strategic reserves of *(a)* petroleum and *(b)* oil held; how this estimate was calculated; and if he will make a statement. [2660]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department of Trade and Industry collects monthly oil stocks directly from the UK oil industry. At the end of March 2005 the UK held oil stocks equivalent to 84 days of the previous year's consumption. Of this 84 days, 45 days were held in the form of crude oil and feedstocks, and 39 days in the form of finished products.

The Department publishes levels of oil stocks quarterly in its publication Energy Trends. These are available in the Libraries of the House and the next edition with the March data will be published on 30 June 2005.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what meetings were held in his Department during the period Parliament was dissolved concerning the security of supply of road fuels and strategic reserves; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [2661]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI officials often meet to discuss the supply of road fuels and strategic reserves as part of prudent contingency planning. No formal meetings at which minutes were taken were held in the Department during the period in question.

Thorp Plant

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the circumstances which led to the recent leak of radioactive material from a pipe at the Thorp plant. [3276]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin), on 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 646–47W.

UK Presidency (EU)

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what communication activities are planned in relation to the policy areas covered by his Department during the UK Presidency of the EU; and what budget has been allocated for these activities. [1647]

Alan Johnson: The Department of Trade and Industry's work on communications during the UK Presidency is as a part of a centrally run exercise by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. No separate Departmental budget has therefore been allocated for these activities.

Wind Farms

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what subsidies the Government make available for wind farms; and according to what criteria they are given. [2651]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 9 June 2005]*: The Government's main instrument for supporting the establishment of wind farms is the renewables obligation. The obligation is a market based support mechanism that requires licensed electricity suppliers to provide a specified and growing proportion of their electricity from renewable sources eligible under the obligation. Wind farms are one of the technologies supported under the obligation. This provides an assured market for renewable electricity and ensures that it attracts a premium.

To date, the Government have committed £117 million in grant support towards the capital installation of early offshore wind farm development. No direct grant support is provided for onshore wind farm development except for some small household or community installations under the clear skies scheme.

The criteria for determining eligibility for the last round of capital grants for offshore wind projects can be found at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/renewables/business_pdfs/guidancenotes.pdf.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committee on UK-US Relations

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister for what reason the Cabinet Committee on UK-US relations has been abolished; what representations he received on this matter from the US authorities; and which other committees are now undertaking the work previously dealt with under the auspices of the committee. [3280]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Written Ministerial Statement on Ministerial Committees of the Cabinet I made on 24 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 12WS.

The Defence and Overseas Policy Cabinet Committee will discuss UK-US relations as appropriate. I have received no representations on this matter from the US authorities.

Prime Ministerial Visits

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Prime Minister when a serving British Prime Minister last visited *(a)* Orkney and *(b)* Shetland. [3034]

The Prime Minister: Regrettably, I have been unable to visit the Orkney and Shetlands islands. My office does not hold information on visits made by previous Prime Ministers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Rate

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make a statement on the employment rate in the United Kingdom; and what steps he is taking to increase it; [815]

(2) on what basis his Department set a target employment rate of 80 per cent. for the UK; by what date he expects this target to be reached; and if he will make a statement. [816]

Margaret Hodge: The current employment rate of 74.9 per cent. is the highest in the G7 major industrialised countries and the fourth highest in the EU (behind Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden).

Our long-term aim, as set out in DWP's five-year strategy, is to achieve an employment rate equivalent of 80 per cent. of the working age population. The realisation of this aim will require continued macroeconomic stability and further radical welfare reform to build on the success that has already been achieved through the new deal, Jobcentre Plus and the Pathways to Work pilots.

We decided on the long-term aim of an employment rate equivalent to 80 per cent. by considering historical and international trends in key labour market variables. Then we made a judgment, based on the success so far of our economic and labour market policies. Our judgment reflects our ambition for continuing economic growth and prosperity for the country and opportunity and inclusion for individual citizens.

Motability Scheme

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what type of cars were bought by the Government's Motability scheme in each year since 2000. [735]

Mrs. McGuire: The operation of the Motability scheme, which is an independent not-for-profit charity, is a matter for the board of governors of Motability and not the Government.

Motability customers are free to choose the type of car they have from the scheme. The number and types of cars selected by Motability customers in each year from 2000 and 2004 are shown in the following table.

Manufacturer	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Aixam	—	—	33	66	29
Audi	17	9	—	3	3
BMW	5	—	—	6	9
Chevrolet	3,673	67	2	916	1,674
Chrysler	—	3	38	64	202
Citroen	4,164	15,982	11,829	9,689	15,360
Daihatsu	479	36	107	98	36
Fiat	3,354	2,371	2,002	2,475	3,161
Ford	30,470	30,527	29,174	33,668	38,715
Honda	3,150	402	329	446	1,386
Hyundai	1,222	772	323	366	861
Kia	506	33	71	271	874
Land Rover	1,155	588	319	322	662
Mazda	1,348	66	128	160	1,425
Mercedes	133	981	2,002	4,222	1,608
Mitsubishi	601	14	50	106	89
Nissan	4,983	6,644	10,106	6,046	12,341
Other	757	917	1,454	1,923	1,692
Peugeot	14,257	13,034	13,159	13,514	8,067
Proton	33	28	85	100	—
Renault	16,052	17,216	16,248	12,651	22,838
Rover	4,874	2,979	2,202	2,054	2,606
Saab	5	4	12	6	1
Seat	240	6	6	37	17
Skoda	698	87	48	77	56
Smart	31	74	197	424	36
Suzuki	893	123	175	508	316
Toyota	2,976	2,195	3,248	3,133	2,735
Vauxhall	41,352	36,281	41,107	40,836	46,755
Volkswagen	5,020	7,862	5,238	4,950	8,052
Volvo	5	12	33	37	32
Total	142,453	139,313	139,725	139,174	171,638

Pension Age

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to extend the retirement age for the basic state pension to 70 years for persons employed in certain professions; and if he will make a statement. [3862]

Mr. Timms: We have no such plans.

Turner and Newall

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to help those people who paid into the Turner and Newall pension fund; whether the Government are considering setting up a compensation scheme; and if he will make a statement. [3649]

Mr. Timms: The Government have established the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) to protect members of defined benefit schemes by paying compensation if their employer becomes insolvent and the pension scheme is under funded. The PPF became operational on 6 April this year and, after this date, when a sponsoring employer of an eligible pension scheme has an insolvency event the PPF will step in and ensure that members receive a meaningful level of income in retirement.

For eligible schemes not already in wind up before 6 April, but where the employer was in insolvency proceedings prior to this date, entry to the PPF may be possible where a further insolvency event occurs after 6 April 2005. This would require a new qualifying insolvency event to take place (for example an order for the winding-up of a company being made by the court).

Members of the Turner and Newall pension fund may well benefit from the Pension Protection Fund in due course, if the eligibility criteria were met.

NORTHERN IRELAND

A and E Staff

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days sick leave were taken by staff in each accident and emergency department in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [3489]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Trust	Sick days 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Altnagelvin HSS Trust	305	403	991
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	1,502.2	1,943.1	1,307.0
Causeway HSS Trust	1,006.8	1,316.4	919.7
Craigavon Area Hospital HSS Trust	873.4	968.6	1,189.8
Minor injuries unit, South Tyrone Hospital	126.5	298.7	436.2
Down Lisburn HSS Trust comprising			
(1) Lagan Valley Hospital	242	160	218
(2) Downe Hospital	242	188	218
Mater HSS Trust	Figures not available at present Due to change in monitoring system, not possible to capture the information at this time.	371	562.6
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust		807.4	514.1
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust comprising			
(1) Erne Hospital	188.8	97.9	343
(2) Tyrone County Hospital	353.1	128.5	96
Ulster Community and Hospitals HSS Trust	724.40	837.70	1,115.10
United Hospitals HSS Trust comprising			
(1) Antrim Area Hospital	1,141	767	680
(2) Mid Ulster Hospital	338	341	173
(3) Whiteabbey Hospital	55	61	195

Information was not available from Newry and Mourne HSS Trust.

The Department keeps absenteeism under careful review. Targets have been set for Trusts to reduce their levels of sick absence.

Belfast Education and Library Board

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has completed its investigation into allegations of fraud in building maintenance in the Belfast Education and Library Board; and if he will make a statement. [2782]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has not yet completed the investigation into allegations of fraud in building maintenance within the Belfast Education and Library Board. As this is a current investigation it would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of clostridium difficile were reported to his Department under the voluntary reporting scheme in each year between 2000 and 2003; and if he will make a statement. [3799]

Mr. Woodward: From 2000 to 2003, under the voluntary reporting scheme the annual total number of laboratory reports of clostridium difficile toxin (all specimen types) collated by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (Northern Ireland) was:

	Number of clostridium difficile toxin
2000	718
2001	662
2002	924
2003	1,015

Since 1 January 2005, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has made reporting of clostridium difficile mandatory.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to extend the education maintenance allowance scheme to Northern Ireland. [3507]

Angela E. Smith: The education maintenance allowance scheme was introduced in Northern Ireland in September 2004, to eligible 16-year-olds, in line with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Information Leaks

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in identifying the source of the leak within the Police Service of Northern Ireland or the Police Ombudsman's office to the Press Association in December 2004 in relation to the case communicated to him on 31 January. [3513]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Lady to the letter from my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Mr. Pearson) of 23 February 2005 in reply to her correspondence of 31 January 2005 on this matter.

Liver Transplants

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were waiting for a liver transplant in Northern Ireland on the latest date for which figures are available. [3472]

Mr. Woodward: At 3 November 2004, there were nine patients in Northern Ireland awaiting a liver transplant.

NHS Dentistry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dentists based in Northern Ireland commenced practice within the NHS during 2004. [2801]

Mr. Woodward: At December 2004 there were 67 dentists that were registered for providing General Dental Services in Northern Ireland who were not registered a year earlier. This figure will include dentists who have qualified during that year; dentists who have returned to work after a career break and other dentists who have began practicing here.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total Northern Ireland Tourist Board investment in each Northern Ireland parliamentary constituency was in each of the last five years. [2340]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is set out at table A. In addition to this, table B details a number of payments issued by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) to various groups throughout the last five years. This data is not available on a parliamentary constituency basis as the initiatives funded were across all constituencies in Northern Ireland.

Financial assistance was provided to accommodation projects by the NITB until March 2002; however since April 2002 this assistance has been administered through Invest NI.

Table A: Financial assistance paid to all tourism projects by constituency

£

Constituency	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
Across all constituencies and cross border[1]	141,501.40	241,926.50	118,687.13	101,933.75	101,558.38	15,896.69	721,503.85
Belfast East	38,300.00	4,200.00	9,000.00	17,500.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	99,000.00
Belfast North	238,912.97	155,200.00	4,500.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	9,000.00	412,612.97
Belfast South	755,466.36	325,187.32	1,368,103.00	13,800.63	—	—	3,462,557.31
Belfast West	3,461.00	20,000.00	741,500.00	20,000.00	—	15,000.00	799,961.00
East Antrim	29,364.71	498,782.28	693,000.59	400.00	500.00	—	1,222,047.58
East Londonderry	169,250.57	723,194.17	364,399.06	10,189.05	30,013.53	3,000.00	1,300,046.38
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	614,042.15	389,086.65	1,432,934.50	9,976.91	41,857.92	15,392.47	2,503,290.60
Foyle	623,537.43	460,362.51	1,591,163.73	76,113.45	11,654.98	4,123.97	2,766,956.07
Lagan Valley	35,685.51	58,945.92	39,709.83	3,800.00	2,021.79	—	140,163.05
Mid Ulster	29,255.82	87,058.49	184,609.83	118,765.03	20,790.00	2,310.00	442,789.17
Newry and Armagh	204,867.55	824,062.99	2,095,527.42	57,274.62	23,991.20	7,000.00	3,212,723.78
North Antrim	512,327.24	1,094,452.80	747,906.39	68,065.85	36,119.81	—	2,458,872.09
North Down	67,550.41	38,429.11	1,200.00	28,700.00	8,000.00	—	143,879.52
South Antrim	558,214.39	120,798.70	94,441.90	8,000.00	—	—	781,454.99
South Down	1,652,777.52	133,684.37	655,129.66	18,489.98	10,551.61	28,775.13	4,499,408.27
Strangford	300,075.69	276,832.67	1,746.19	46,736.58	57,375.74	—	682,766.87
Upper Bann	1,809.82	16,224.34	43,381.62	500.00	—	—	61,915.78
West Tyrone	262,782.33	189,360.33	157,348.68	4,368.52	—	7,093.37	621,453.23
Total	6,239,182.87	8,658,289.15	10,344,289.53	608,614.37	365,434.96	117,591.63	26,333,402.51

[1] Across all constituencies and cross border relates to projects which straddle more than one parliamentary constituency.

In addition the following payments were issued to various groups throughout the financial years indicated. The data are not available on a constituency basis as the initiatives funded were across all constituencies in Northern Ireland.

Table B

£

Date	*Amount*
Financial year to:	
31 March 2000	1,063,747.98
31 March 2001	1,000,769.88

Table B

£

Date	*Amount*
31 March 2002	1,045,950.90
31 March 2003	1,119,301.70
31 March 2004	1,891,651.40
31 March 2005	1,655,102.57
Total	7,776,524.43

Killyleagh High School

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will assess the merits of demolishing the former High School in Killyleagh; and if he will make a statement. [2349]

Angela E. Smith: The South Eastern Education and Library Board has decided to demolish the structure and as is usual in such cases has applied for planning permission for a variety of uses for the site. Tenders have already been sought for the demolition and they are due with the Board by 17 June. Once a decision on planning permission has been obtained, the building will be demolished.

Osteoporosis

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to raise awareness of osteoporosis in Northern Ireland; and how much funding has been directed towards its treatment in the last five years for which figures are available. [3491]

Mr. Woodward: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is raising awareness of osteoporosis through a range of strategies and action plans designed to encourage regular exercise, a balanced diet, smoking prevention/cessation and a responsible approach to alcohol consumption.

In addition to lifestyle changes, there are a number of interventions, including medicines, used to prevent and treat osteoporosis. The choice of intervention is a matter for clinical judgment, having taken account of the evidence of effectiveness, clinical circumstances and the views expressed by the individual patient. The total cost of these interventions, including fracture treatment, is not available. However, data is available on the costs associated with medicines dispensed by community pharmacists for both the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. The position for the years 2000 to 2004 is set out in the following table.

£000

	Ingredient cost
2000	1,571
2001	2,183
2002	3,189
2003	4,526
2004	5,838
Total	17,307

Out-of-school Clubs

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect of the withdrawal of EU funding for out-of-school clubs in vulnerable and chronically deprived areas of Northern Ireland on working parents; and if he will make a statement. [2592]

Angela E. Smith: The PEACE II Programme was originally intended to end in 2004. All projects were assisted on a time limited basis and as such no European funding has been withdrawn. We are pleased that an extension to PEACE II has been secured and that its wider work can continue. Further funding is now available to play care clubs and will be administered jointly by the Training for Women Network and Playboard. However, as the resources available annually are approximately half previous levels, there are inevitably limits on the number of activities that can be assisted.

The Department of Education has not provided support for out of school hours learning (OOSHL) from EU funding but in recent years did promote the New Opportunity Fund's (NOF) Out Of School Hours Learning (OOSL) programme to schools locally until the programme ended last year.

Overhead Power Lines

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what evidence he has assessed of the possible risk of developing leukaemia to children living close to overhead power lines. [3619]

Mr. Woodward: The Department of Health's Radiation Protection Research Programme has funded Dr. Gerald Draper of Oxford University's Childhood Cancer Research Group to investigate the incidence of childhood cancer near power lines. The results of the first phase of this study were published in the British Medical Journal on Friday 3 June. The Health Protection Agency posted a considered response to the publication on its website, www.hpa.org.uk.

The research so far shows a statistical link between electronic fields (EMFs) and increased cases of childhood leukaemia. At this stage, research has not proved that power lines cause leukaemia in children. The Stakeholder Advisory Group on EMFs, which was set up to consider the need for precautionary measures in relation to EMFs, will address and take into account the findings of Dr. Draper's research so far.

Police Service (Text Messaging)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people he estimates will

register for the Police Service of Northern Ireland text messaging service enabling people with hearing or speech problems to contact the emergency services using mobile phones. [3519]

Mr. Woodward: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has informed me that the scheme is still in the very early stages of development. It is too early to know how many people will register for the service but it is hoped that as many people as possible will do so.

Prescriptions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prescriptions were issued in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those did not require payment by the recipient. [2800]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not collected in the form requested.

The total number of prescription items dispensed, and the number for which the full prescription charge was paid, in each of the last five calendar years is given in the following table. Based upon sample analyses, it is estimated that a further 5 per cent. of prescription items are partly paid for by pre-payment certificates (PPCs), which allow the patient to obtain as many prescription items as necessary during the four or 12-month validity of the certificate for a set fee. Consequently, about 89 per cent. of health service prescription items are dispensed free of charge to patients. Estimated figures for the latter two categories are calculated as follows:

	Total items	*Charge paid*	*Estimated 5 per cent. PPCs*	*Estimated 89 per cent. free*
2000	23,663,632	1,409,347	1,183,182	21,071,104
2001	24,551,125	1,472,666	1,227,556	21,850,903
2002	25,419,957	1,545,007	1,270,998	22,603,952
2003	26,399,016	1,553,759	1,319,951	23,525,306
2004	27,318,349	1,581,093	1,365,917	24,371,339

Prison Service

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to increase representation of the *(a)* Roman Catholic and *(b)* ethnic minority communities within the Northern Ireland Prison Service. [3517]

Mr. Woodward: Over recent years the Northern Ireland Prison Service has reduced staffing levels after the closure of Belfast and Maze prisons. There have been no major recruitment campaigns to affect the composition of the service.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service did however recruit Night Custody Officers last year. The Service specifically encouraged Roman Catholics and women to apply in the job advertisements which read as follows:

"The Northern Ireland Prison Service is committed to equality of opportunity in employment. All applications for employment will be considered strictly on the basis of merit.

The Service welcomes applications from all suitably qualified applicants irrespective of religious belief, gender, race, political opinion, age, marital status, sexual orientation or whether or not they have dependants. As Roman Catholics and women are currently known to be under-represented in the Northern Ireland Prison Service, applications from the Roman Catholic section of the community and from women would be particularly welcome".

The Northern Ireland Prison Service has also put in place an outreach programme aimed at young people from the under-represented communities, including ethnic minorities, with the aim of encouraging applications for future vacancies.

Seat Belts

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to implement a policy of installing seat belts on all buses used to transport children to and from schools in Northern Ireland. [2808]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of the Environment is currently considering in detail the implications of implementing such a policy in its assessment of the four key recommendations of the Northern Ireland Assembly's home to school transport public inquiry. It is expected that the findings of this work, which is being carried in partnership with the Department for Regional Development and the Department of Education, will be published for consultation later this year.

Education and Library Boards have been working towards the goal of providing seat belts on all their vehicles—at current rates this will take at least six years. To date, seat belts have been fitted on 63 per cent. of their vehicles.

Tunes Plateau

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what stage has been reached in the consultation process over the proposed siting of the offshore wind farm at Tunes Plateau, Northern Ireland. [2809]

Angela E. Smith: The project remains at feasibility stage. The statutory consultation process has not yet commenced as the developers have not submitted the evaluation of environmental impacts necessary to support an application for a marine construction licence, or consent to build as required under Article 39 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992.

HEALTH

Anti-TNFa

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to ensure that the guidance from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence instructing health care trusts to provide anti-TNFa intervention to those patients with rheumatoid arthritis who qualify is followed by trusts. [3406]

Mr. Byrne: It is the responsibility of individual strategic health authorities to ensure local compliance

with clinical guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Arthritis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on availability of drugs to treat arthritis. [3059]

Mr. Byrne: There is a wide range of over-the-counter and prescription drugs available to help relieve pain and discomfort and reduce the future damage associated with the 200 different forms of arthritis.

Asthma

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been recorded as suffering from asthma in (i) Brent East and (ii) each London borough in each year since 1997. [2514]

Jane Kennedy: This data is not available in the format requested.

However, information on the numbers of adults and children recorded as suffering from asthma in London is recorded by London local authority of residence. This data is shown in the table for the years 1997–98 to 2003–04.

Primary diagnosis asthma (ICD-10 codes J45-J46)—finished admission episodes. London local authority of residence—national health service hospitals, England 1997–98 to 2003–04

	1997–98			1998–99			1999–2000		
Local authority of residence	*Adults (18+)*	*Children (0–17)*	*Total*	*Adults (18+)*	*Children (0–17)*	*Total*	*Adults (18+)*	*Children (0–17)*	*Total*
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	171	164	335	137	93	230	92	92	184
Barnet	235	280	515	237	297	534	206	169	375
Bexley	144	159	303	111	153	264	156	120	276
Brent	142	142	284	101	125	226	107	144	251
Bromley	202	207	409	179	160	339	212	231	443
Camden	166	181	347	122	119	241	120	101	221
Croydon	269	356	625	216	311	527	209	185	394
Ealing	294	322	616	298	292	590	274	230	504
Enfield	190	189	379	180	209	389	161	231	392
Greenwich	153	196	349	126	160	286	138	138	276
Hackney	192	227	419	223	277	500	162	290	452
Hammersmith and Fulham	181	161	342	170	146	316	151	93	244
Haringey	180	183	363	164	145	309	168	179	347
Harrow	143	117	260	138	132	270	132	124	256
Havering	148	136	284	134	140	274	97	99	196
Hillingdon	199	151	350	202	161	363	194	163	357
Hounslow	205	186	391	278	252	530	217	183	400
Islington	128	136	264	137	91	228	147	92	239
Kensington and Chelsea	146	102	248	137	71	208	72	41	113
Kingston upon Thames	86	93	179	101	124	225	112	87	199
Lambeth	247	280	527	312	226	538	234	186	420
Lewisham	224	305	529	187	326	513	213	274	487
Merton	142	177	319	128	125	253	127	130	257
Newham	191	245	436	201	247	448	184	225	409
Redbridge	186	187	373	155	139	294	130	90	220
Richmond upon Thames	54	69	123	97	102	199	104	65	169
Southwark	255	212	467	258	213	471	223	180	403
Sutton	99	194	293	104	171	275	89	158	247
Tower Hamlets	153	139	292	180	163	343	164	174	338
Waltham Forest	217	190	407	197	146	343	123	110	233
Wandsworth	215	209	424	248	202	450	213	122	335
Westminster, City of	126	83	209	114	104	218	154	92	246
London total	5,683	5,978	11,661	5,572	5,622	11,194	5,085	4,798	9,883

	2000–01			2001–02		
Local authority of residence	*Adults (18+)*	*Children (0–17)*	*Total*	*Adults (18+)*	*Children (0–17)*	*Total*
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	105	83	188	97	105	202
Barnet	187	157	344	155	164	319
Bexley	99	117	216	98	97	195
Brent	165	145	310	90	72	162
Bromley	188	177	365	79	102	181
Camden	104	115	219	126	124	250
Croydon	208	230	438	168	173	341
Ealing	204	190	394	227	241	468
Enfield	152	182	334	187	175	362
Greenwich	148	127	275	111	132	243
Hackney	191	204	395	187	236	423
Hammersmith and Fulham	151	75	226	117	28	145

Local authority of residence	2000–01 Adults (18+)	2000–01 Children (0–17)	2000–01 Total	2001–02 Adults (18+)	2001–02 Children (0–17)	2001–02 Total
Haringey	160	187	347	119	193	312
Harrow	194	150	344	133	90	223
Havering	113	101	214	134	87	221
Hillingdon	213	150	363	180	123	303
Hounslow	223	194	417	204	179	383
Islington	114	118	232	117	135	252
Kensington and Chelsea	78	44	122	48	24	72
Kingston upon Thames	91	79	170	95	105	200
Lambeth	205	194	399	246	204	450
Lewisham	197	231	428	171	227	398
Merton	92	115	207	105	109	214
Newham	203	192	395	198	231	429
Redbridge	149	134	283	129	140	269
Richmond upon Thames	82	53	135	67	55	122
Southwark	202	225	427	213	192	405
Sutton	108	144	252	84	141	225
Tower Hamlets	136	166	302	193	172	365
Waltham Forest	128	87	215	122	100	222
Wandsworth	194	111	305	142	117	259
Westminster, City of	172	92	264	120	94	214
London total	4,956	4,569	9,525	4,462	4,367	8,829

Local authority of residence	2002–03 Adults (18+)	2002–03 Children (0–17)	2002–03 Total	2003–04 Adults (18+)	2003–04 Children (0–17)	2003–04 Total
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	123	104	227	139	84	223
Barnet	196	115	311	238	145	383
Bexley	109	92	201	156	115	271
Brent	120	79	199	207	122	329
Bromley	140	166	306	157	148	305
Camden	145	104	249	143	110	253
Croydon	142	178	320	242	196	438
Ealing	233	165	398	367	160	527
Enfield	141	122	263	122	106	228
Greenwich	146	121	267	245	127	372
Hackney	225	232	457	230	230	460
Hammersmith and Fulham	125	69	194	131	78	209
Haringey	126	135	261	126	111	237
Harrow	126	80	206	144	83	227
Havering	123	77	200	145	91	236
Hillingdon	166	84	250	178	79	257
Hounslow	188	132	320	240	98	338
Islington	128	120	248	137	91	228
Kensington and Chelsea	87	28	115	74	45	119
Kingston upon Thames	95	78	173	98	80	178
Lambeth	237	178	415	234	165	399
Lewisham	223	172	395	173	186	359
Merton	100	109	209	106	103	209
Newham	198	169	367	237	148	385
Redbridge	157	106	263	178	112	290
Richmond upon Thames	100	49	149	135	54	189
Southwark	224	164	388	261	178	439
Sutton	51	112	163	90	116	206
Tower Hamlets	200	114	314	192	88	280
Waltham Forest	167	98	265	192	123	315
Wandsworth	193	129	322	211	106	317
Westminster, City of	116	82	198	104	73	177
London total	4,850	3,763	8,613	5,632	3,751	9,383

Barnet Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the performance against reference cost is for treatments at Barnet hospital. [3268]

Jane Kennedy: The overall reference cost index score for Barnet and Chase Farm National Health Service Trust, as reported in the reference costs 2004 collection for the financial year 2003–04, is 102.

This is after adjusting for the market forces factor and is the headline index. This effectively means that, overall, Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust was operating at levels approximately two per cent. higher than the national average costs for this financial period.

Cancer

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the implications of changes in the structure and funding of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence for the availability of new treatments for cancer patients; [2155]

(2) what the budget is for *(a)* (i) the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and (ii) the Health Protection Agency in 2004–05 and *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2005–06. [2156]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* The internal structure of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is a matter for NICE.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence received an initial resource limit from the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government in 2004–05 of £19.3 million. The budget for the Health Protection Agency in 2004–05 was £136.7 million and the initial budget for the Health Development Agency (HDA) in 2004–05 was £12.9 million. The HDA merged with the National Institute for Clinical Excellence to form the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence from 1 April 2005. NICE'S initial funding for 2005–06 is £30.2 million. Figures include capital charges.

Central Middlesex Hospital

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were waiting to see a consultant at Central Middlesex hospital on *(a)* 1 May 1997, *(b)* 7 June 2001 and *(c)* the latest date for which figures are available. [2537]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested.

Table 1 shows the total number of patients waiting for inpatient admission to Central Middlesex and Northwick Park hospitals as at 31 March 1997. On 1 April 1999 these two hospitals merged to become North West London Hospitals NHS Trust. Therefore, since 1 April 1999, data has been collected at trust level.

Table 1: Number waiting for in-patient admission

	Central Middlesex hospital	*Northwick Park hospital*	*North West London Hospitals NHS Trust*	*Total*
31 March 1997	3,089	6,216	not applicable	9,305
31 May 2001	not applicable	not applicable	7,280	7,280
30 April 2005	not applicable	not applicable	7,637	17,637

Table 2 shows the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for out-patient treatment.

Table 2. Number waiting over 13 weeks for out-patient treatment

	Central Middlesex hospital	*Northwick Park hospital*	*North West London Hospitals NHS Trust*	*Total*
31 March 1997	863	1,026	not applicable	1,889
31 May 2001	not applicable	not applicable	1779	1,779
30 April 2005	not applicable	not applicable	775	775

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of *Clostridium difficile* reported by each hospital trust has been in each month since the start of the mandatory reporting scheme. [3765]

Jane Kennedy: Data from the mandatory surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea are not available yet and will be published this summer.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she has issued to hospital trusts on the *(a)* prevention and *(b)* eradication of *Clostridium difficile*. [3766]

Jane Kennedy: "*Clostridium difficile*: infection prevention and management" was issued to national health service hospital trusts in 1994 and includes advice on antibiotic policies arid isolating patients. Copies of the report are available in the Library.

Information on outbreak control is also included in the National *Clostridium difficile* standards group report to the Department, produced in 2003, available on the Health Protections Agency website at

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/clostridium_difficile/FINALCdiffreport.pdf.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *Clostridium difficile* were reported to her Department under the voluntary reporting scheme in each year between 2000 and 2003; and if she will make a statement. [3798]

Jane Kennedy: Reports made under the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) voluntary reporting scheme are shown in the table. Further details are given in the report, Voluntary reporting of *Clostridium difficile*, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland: 2004, in Communicable Disease Report Weekly, volume 15, number 20, published in May 2005 on the HPA website at www.hpa.org.uk/cdr/pages/hcai.htm#clost.

Voluntary reports to HPA of Clostridium difficile infections diagnosed from faecal specimens for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

	Number of reports
2000[1]	[2]20,556
2001	[2]22,008
2002	[2]28,986
2003	[2]35,537

[1] Number of reports for England and Wales only.
[2] Provisional data.
Source:
HPA.

This article shows that it is hard to establish the true trend in infection rates, as reporting has increased over recent years. In order to find out the scale of the problem of *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea, it was added to the mandatory surveillance system for healthcare associated infection in 2004. The first results will be published later this year.

GP Services (Hornsey and Wood Green)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her latest estimate is of the general practitioner to patient ratio in Hornsey and Wood Green; and if she will make a statement. [2888]

Jane Kennedy: There is no statutory general practitioner to patient ratio. Any individual is free to approach a GP practice near to where he/she is living and apply to join the practice's list of national health service patients.

The Department does not collect information on GP to patient ratios. However, the table shows the number of GPs per 100,000 patients in the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) area.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 patients for Haringey teaching PCT
As at 30 September 2004

Numbers (headcount)

	Haringey teaching PCT 5C9
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)	148
Patients	284,093
General medical practitioners per 100,000 patients	52.1

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004, this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

Source:
NHS health and social care information centre GMS and PMS statistics.

Dentistry

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what inspections are made on the quality of NHS dental care; and if she will make a statement. [681]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Dental Practice Board (DPB) for England and Wales is responsible for establishing the probity of payment claims for dentists working in the national health service general dental services and making payments to them for the work they have done. The DPB continually monitors dentists' prescribing patterns and activity and the quality of treatment provided through the dental reference service (DRS). The DRS of the DPB monitors the quality of dentists' work from a randomly selected sample of payment claims using questionnaires to patients, clinical record checks and treatment examinations. The form that patients sign at the dentist includes an agreement to attend an examination if requested. Adverse reports arising from the 55,000 random references are investigated and can be referred to the primary care trust for disciplinary action.

Health Care Associated Infections

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Office for National Statistics has made in undertaking a qualitative study on the proportion of deaths which may be associated with healthcare associated infections; and what the timetable is for this work to be completed and published. [1563]

Jane Kennedy: This study consists of two main parts that are being taken forward separately. The Health Protection Agency and the Office for National Statistics are currently progressing the confidential study of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) related deaths. A separate quantitative analysis on the proportion of deaths which may be associated with HCAIs will start later in the year.

Hospital Cleanliness

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to improve the level of cleanliness on hospital wards. [3145]

Jane Kennedy: Since 2005, the Department has had a comprehensive and multi-faceted programme of work covering a wide range of issues, including:

Setting standards

Increased investment

Involving ward sisters and charge nurses

Inspecting hospitals

Awareness campaigns

Issuing guidance

In 2000, we introduced an annual programme of patient environment action team inspections. Then, around one third of hospitals were poor or unacceptable. Today, 98 per cent. of national health service trusts are rated as acceptable or better.

Illegal Meat

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to tackle the sale of illegal meat unfit for human consumption in restaurants. [2952]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 530W.

Infection Surveillance Data

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish data collected under the mandatory surveillance system for *(a)* Clostridium-associated diarrhoea, *(b)* glycopeptide resistant enterococci and *(c)* orthopaedic surgical site infection; and whether she will be publishing this data for intervals of six months. [2277]

Jane Kennedy: Data from the mandatory surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea and glycopeptide resistant enterococci will be available this

summer and information for orthopaedic surgical site infections will be published in the autumn. This data is likely to be published annually.

Intensive/Critical Care Beds

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* intensive and *(b)* critical care beds are available per 100,000 population in England; and what evidence she has evaluated on numbers of such beds available in (i) Germany, (ii) France and (iii) the USA; [1347]

(2) what the cost of high dependency care was in each of the last three years in England; and what evidence she has evaluated on the level of such costs in *(a)* Germany, *(b)* France and *(c)* the USA. [1348]

Mr. Byrne: As of 13 January 2005, there were 6.4 adult critical care beds and 3.6 intensive care beds per 100,000 adult population in England. The Department does not have any comparable figures for Germany, France or the United States of America. National health service expenditure on intensive care and high dependency care beds is not separately identified from the annual financial returns of NHS providers, but the Government invested an additional £300 million in adult critical care services between 2000 and 2002, which is now incorporated in primary care trust baseline budgets.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated with photodynamic treatment for wet macular degeneration in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England in the latest year for which figures are available. [2563]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2003–04, there were 3,418 finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was "degeneration of macular and posterior pole" and an operation was carried out in the national health service. For trusts in Gloucestershire, there were 37 finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was "degeneration of macular and posterior pole" and an operation was carried out in the NHS. The Department does not hold information on the use of photodynamic therapy in these treatments.

MRSA

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have contracted the Panton-Valentine Leukocidin superbug in each of the last five years; and how many went on to make a full recovery. [2258]

Jane Kennedy: Panton-Valentine Leukocidin (PVL) producing "Staphylococcus aureus" is a rare infection; which is commonly associated with skin and soft tissue infections. The information requested is not available as not all "Staphylococcus aureus" isolates are tested for the presence of PVL.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to raise awareness of cases of the Panton-Valentine Leukocidin superbug among *(a)* the public and *(b)* doctors and other healthcare professionals. [2259]

Jane Kennedy: The Health Protection Agency has already published a number of articles for healthcare professionals to raise awareness of these infections and the Chief Medical Officer will be providing further guidance to raise awareness and promote good practice.

There are no plans for a specific public awareness campaign on Panton Valentine Leukocidin producing "Staphylococcus aureus".

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the incidence of MRSA in NHS hospitals. [2878]

Jane Kennedy: The mandatory surveillance system for health care associated infection started in April 2001 with the collection of meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) blood stream infections data.

The latest data, for April to September 2004, shows a six per cent. drop on the corresponding period in 2003. More details can be found on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/PublicationsStatisticsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4085951&chk=HBt2QD.

NHS Continuing Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she expects the national framework on continuing care to contain national eligibility criteria for fully-funded NHS continuing care; [2928]

(2) when she expects to publish the response to the Health Committee report published in April on NHS continuing care; [2929]

(3) when she expects to publish the national framework on continuing care; [2930]

(4) how many cases related to retrospective continuing care assessments have been taken up by the Ombudsman at appeal; and how many of these were upheld. [2936]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is currently working closely with selected stakeholders to produce a national framework for the assessment of continuing care, due for publication in early 2006. This should result in national eligibility criteria and suitable assessment methodologies for access to national health service continuing care. I have received a number of representations about the development of a national framework, all of which will be taken into account in its development. In accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines, we will consult on the official guidance and any legislation required later this year. I expect to make a formal response to the Health Committee report on NHS continuing care before the summer recess.

Details of the review's progress were presented to the House in a written statement by my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) on 16 September 2004 *Official Report*, columns 175–77WS, of the 11,655 requests for investigations received by 31 March 2004, 86.1 per cent. had been investigated, with 1,796 being found eligible for recompense. No later data is available. The Department does not collect data about the number of people who subsequently took cases to the Health Ombudsman.

NHS Staff (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* clinical and *(b)* non-clinical NHS staff were employed in (i) Brent and (ii) each London primary care trust in each year since 1997. [2496]

Jane Kennedy: The number of clinical and non-clinical national health service staff employed in each constituency and primary care trust is not collected centrally. However, data collected by strategic health authority for the years 1997 to 2004 is available and has been placed in the Library.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dental nurses there were in *(a)* Brent and *(b)* each London primary care trust in each year since 1997. [2497]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Most national health service dentistry is provided by self-employed dentists, who employ their own dental nurses. As a result, information is not held centrally on numbers of dental nurses working in dental practices providing general dental services under the NHS.

No Secrets Guidance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list local authorities in England which have established *(a)* adult protection policies and *(b)* adult protection committees following publication of the No Secrets guidance. [2910]

Mr. Byrne: Information on which local authorities in England have established adult protection committees will be available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection later this year.

Obesity

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed as obese in each London borough in each of the last five years. [2487]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for the numbers of children diagnosed as obese in each London borough are not collected centrally. However, figures on the prevalence of obesity are available by Government office region from the Health Survey for England. This data is available in table 5 on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/94/11/04109411.pdf.

Parliamentary Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to the question tabled by the hon. Member for Monmouth for answer on 25 May, ref 1150. [3658]

Caroline Flint: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on Tuesday 7 June, *Official Report*, column 524W.

Pharmacies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prescriptions in the United Kingdom are filled with a parallel traded product. [2287]

Jane Kennedy: The Department does not hold information on the proportion of prescriptions filled with a parallel imported medicine.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pharmacies operated 24 hour services in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Brent East, *(b)* Brent and *(c)* each London primary care trust. [2529]

Jane Kennedy: Information on pharmacies operating 24 hour services is not collected centrally.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pharmacies there were in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Brent East, *(b)* Brent and *(c)* each London primary care trust. [2530]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of community pharmacies by constituency is not collected centrally. However, information prior to 2002 is available by health authority (HA) and from 2002 by primary care trust (PCT). This data is shown in the tables.

Brent, East, Brent, North and Brent, South are currently served by Brent Teaching PCT, and were previously within Brent and Harrow HA. The remaining London PCTs sat in the following HAs.

Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow
Hillingdon
Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster
Barnet
Enfield and Haringey
Camden and Islington
Barking and Havering
East London and City
Redbridge and Waltham Forest
Bexley and Greenwich
Bromley
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham
Croydon
Kingston and Richmond
Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth

Table 1 shows the number of community pharmacies by HA prior to 2002. Table 2 shows the number of community pharmacies by PCT from 2002 onwards.

Table 1—By HA 1997 to 2002

	Number of community pharmacies				
HA	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*
Brent and Harrow	136	134	131	130	129
Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow	168	165	166	163	161
Hillingdon	63	62	62	62	62
Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster	152	152	150	148	148
Barnet	79	79	79	79	n/a
Enfield and Haringey	117	117	116	116	194
Camden and Islington	112	112	111	111	111
Barking and Havering	83	81	80	79	79

Table 1—By HA 1997 to 2002

HA	Number of community pharmacies 1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
East London and City	169	169	169	167	166
Redbridge and Waltham Forest	109	109	109	108	108
Bexley and Greenwich	94	94	94	94	[2]151
Bromley	57	57	57	57	n/a
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham	178	176	176	174	174
Croydon	71	69	69	68	68
Kingston and Richmond	76	76	76	75	75
Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth	149	147	145	145	143

[1] Barnet merged with Enfield and Haringey HA to become a single HA
[2] Bromley merged with Bexley and Greenwich HA to become a single HA.

Table 2—By PCT 2002 to 2004

Primary care trust	Number of community pharmacies 2002–03	2003–04
Brent Teaching	71	71
Ealing	69	70
Hammersmith and Fulham	41	40
Harrow	57	57
Hillingdon	62	62
Hounslow	50	50
Kensington and Chelsea	41	41
Westminster	106	105
Barnet	78	79
Camden	63	63
Islington	47	47
Enfield	59	59
Haringey	57	56
Barking and Dagenham	36	35
City and Hackney	65	65
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford	23	[1]n/a
Havering	43	43
Newham	60	60
Redbridge	39	50
Tower Hamlets	43	44
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone	46	[2]n/a
Waltham Forest	n/a	58
Bexley	47	46
Bromley	57	57
Greenwich	47	48
Lambeth	59	58
Lewisham	52	52
Southwark	63	63
Croydon	68	68
Kingston	29	29
Richmond and Twickenham	45	45
Sutton and Merton	77	77
Wandsworth	65	67

[1] Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT no longer exists.
[2] Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT no longer exists.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the health *(a)* authorities and *(b)* trusts in England providing funding for anti-TNF therapy for people with rheumatoid arthritis; and if she will make a statement. [3072]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not collect information on funding provided by strategic health authorities or primary care trusts for specific treatments.

Health bodies are obliged to fund, from general allocations, anti-TNF (tumour necrosis factor) treatment for those with severe rheumatoid arthritis who meet the clinical guidelines set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Zoledronate

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability of Zoledronate in the NHS to treat secondary bone cancer; and if she has plans to direct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to conduct an appraisal of the treatments available for the management of secondary bone cancer. [3447]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of prescriptions of Zoledronate (zoledronic acid) prescribed in the community in England since 2001 is shown in the table.

	Prescriptions
2001	6
2002	35
2003	232
2004	314

Information on the hospital prescribing of this drug is not collected centrally.

Zoledronic acid belongs to the class of drug known as bisphosphonates and is licensed in the United Kingdom for the prevention of skeletal related events in patients with advanced malignancies involving bone and for the treatment of tumour-induced hypercalcaemia.

There are no plans to ask NICE to conduct an appraisal of bisphosphonates more generally.

CABINET OFFICE

E-Government (East Yorkshire)

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the uptake of e-delivery of Government services has been in East Yorkshire. [3587]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) measures uptake of government services online on a quarterly basis for Adults (16+) across Great Britain. The last survey, in February 2005 showed that 57 per cent. Of internet users, representing 33 per cent. of the adult population accessed Government websites in the 12 months prior to the survey. 29 per cent. of the population accessed sites for informational purposes and 7 per cent. for downloading forms.

Recently available National Statistics data formed by adding the last two surveys together to increase the sample size for regional analysis, shows 46 per cent. of

internet users in Yorkshire and the Number have visited Government websites compared to the UK average of 54 per cent.

Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date the first meeting of the sub-Committee on Freedom of Information will take place. [3279]

Mr. Hutton: Although the Government publishes the title, membership and terms of reference of Cabinet Committees, it has been the practice of successive Governments not to disclose details of their proceedings, including the dates when they meet.

Government Correspondence

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) if he will take steps to improve the *(a)* speed and *(b)* relevance of replies by Government Departments to letters and inquiries from (i) hon. Members and (ii) the public; [2861]

(2) if he will take steps to introduce new performance indicators and a table of rankings for the performance of *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* Ministers in responding to correspondence from hon. Members and the public; [2862]

(3) if he will institute a system of beacon status and special measures to encourage improvements in ministerial and departmental performance in responding to correspondence from hon. Members and the public. [2863]

Mr. Hutton: The Cabinet Office will shortly be publishing updated guidance for Departments on the handling of correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. Copies of the guidance will be placed in the Library. The performance of individual Departments on the handling of correspondence from hon. Members and Peers is published on an annual basis. For information relating to their performance for 2004, I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the then Minister of the Cabinet Office (Mr. Miliband) on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, columns 137–40WS.

Individual Government Departments are responsible for setting of response targets on the handling of correspondence from members of the public.

Departments are continuing to work together and share 'best practice' in the handling of all correspondence.

Ministerial Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Ministers since 1 May 1997 have opted not to take-up the use of a ministerial car. [3278]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The responsibility for the provision of ministerial cars and drivers has been delegated under the terms of the Framework Document to the Government Car Despatch Agency. I have asked its Chief Executive Mr. Roy Burke to write to the hon. Member. Copies of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Parliamentary Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether it is his policy that written parliamentary questions require a response in terms of content no less full than that which would be given in answer to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [1484]

Mr. Hutton: Guidance to Departments on answering parliamentary questions is set out in "Guidance to Officials on Drafting Answers to Parliamentary Questions". This guidance was revised and re-issued in February 2005 to take account of the Freedom of Information Act. Copies are also available in the Library.

Perpetual Annuity Payments

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list *(a)* annuities and *(b)* pensions which are being paid from public funds to the descendants of individuals who through public service were granted exceptional perpetual annuity or pension payments, broken down by amount. [3053]

Mr. Hutton: The Cabinet Office does not make payments of this nature.

Private Finance Projects

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the private finance initiative and public private partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2360]

Mr. Hutton: The Cabinet Office has one private finance initiative project—the Sunningdale Park Property which became operational in 2002.

Information relating to other public private partnership projects is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Websites

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many centrally funded websites have a gov.uk suffix; [3114]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people employed within the civil service who manage Government websites with a gov.uk suffix. [3115]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Cabinet Office does not hold figures on the number of websites in the .gov.uk domain. Figures are held on the number of .gov.uk domain names that have been registered for use. As of 1 April 2005 there were 3,419 approved gov.uk domain names. Covering all levels of central, local and devolved Government within the UK.

A domain name does not necessarily mean a website, a proportion of domain names will be used as redirects to another website.

The Cabinet Office does not hold figures on the number of people employed within the civil service who manage .gov.uk websites.

Websites are funded by the sponsoring organisation.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Design for Manufacture Sites

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what planning restrictions apply to the sites so far named as Design for Manufacture sites. [2457]

Yvette Cooper: Ten sites have been selected for the Design for Manufacture competition. The sites are:

Site 6, Oxley Park, Milton Keynes

Former TA Centre, Oxford Road, Aylesbury

Site D2, Upton, Northampton

Area 2, Allerton Bywater, near Leeds

Former Renny Lodge Hospital, London Road, Newport Pagnell

Former Park Prewett Hospital, Kingsclere Road, Basingstoke

Leybourne Grange, Maidstone

Rowan Lodge School, Merton, London

School Road, Hastings

Former Greenhithe TA Centre, Horn's Cross, Dartford

All the sites are subject to normal planning requirements, and benefit from advanced design specifications. The winners of the competition appointed to become development partners will be expected to abide by local planning requirements, follow design codes and briefs and provide the usual supporting on-site infrastructure.

Seven of the 10 sites already have outline planning consent, and five sites have design codes and/or development briefs in place. Details of the planning context relating to each individual site can be found on the English Partnerships website http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/designformanufacture

Electoral Administration

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of local government staff employed primarily in electoral administration *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [2744]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

The Government does not hold figures for the number of local government staff employed primarily in electoral administration.

Fire Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many road accidents involving the rescue of a person or persons were carried out by the fire service in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [2064]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of road traffic incidents which involved the rescue of a person or persons by the Fire and Rescue Service in England is set out as follows.

	Number of incidents
1994–95	8,556
1995–96	6,918
1996–97	7,555
1997–98	7,697
1998–99	8,352
1999–2000	8,489
2000–01	9,079
2001–02	9,641
2002–03	9,772
2003–04	9,673

Source:
ODPM annual returns

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were rescued or led to safety at chemical or fuel spills or leaks or suspected chemical or fuel spills or leaks by the Fire Service in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [2065]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is not collected centrally on incidents where people are rescued or led to safety from spills or leaks.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many attacks on firefighters were recorded in each fire authority in each year since 1997. [2446]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Attacks on firefighters have only been recorded since 1 April 2004. In 2004–05 a total of 633 attacks were recorded. For the months of April and May 2005, 64 attacks have been recorded. The following tables set out details of these attacks by fire authority.

2004–05

	Number
Buckinghamshire	1
Cheshire	23
Cleveland	54
Cumbria	2
Dorset	1
Greater Manchester	188
Hampshire	6
Isle of Wight	1
Kent	10
Lancashire	6
Lincolnshire	1
Merseyside	135
Mid and West Wales	5
Norfolk	1
Nottinghamshire	33
South Wales	37
South Yorkshire	20
Staffordshire	1
Tyne and Wear	2
West Midlands	106
Total	633

2005–06

	Number
Buckinghamshire	1
Cheshire	2
Cleveland	3
County Durham and Darlington	1
Devon	1
Gloucestershire	1
Lancashire	1
Leicestershire	2
London	3
Merseyside	26

2005–06

	Number
Nottinghamshire	2
Royal Berkshire	2
South Wales	3
South Yorkshire	6
Staffordshire	1
West Midlands	9
Total	64

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many deliberate *(a)* property and *(b)* vehicle fires were recorded in each year since 1997. [2449]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of deliberate fires attended by Fire and Rescue services in England is as follows:

	(a) Property fires (buildings)	*(b) Vehicle fires (road vehicles)*
1997–98	26,045	36,045
1998–99	23,858	42,631
1999–2000	25,990	54,499
2000–01	24,965	59,057
2001–02	28,164	68,634
2002–03[1]	25,492	67,296
2003–04[2]	26,481	58,645

[1] Includes estimates for 15 strike days.
[2] Provisional figures
Note:
Figures derived from a grossed up 20 per cent. sample of fires attended.
Source:
Fire and Rescue service FDR1 returns to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress has been made on the Firelink scheme; how much the scheme has cost; what resources have been allocated to it; and if he will make a statement. [2439]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is in the final stage of discussions with the proposers following receipt of best and final offers. Our aim is to secure a radio system that meets the needs of the FRS and provides value for money for the taxpayer. The imperative is to run a fair and open competition under EU procurement procedures. Some £9 million has been spent on work to replace high risk items of brigades current radio systems to ensure that they continue to be operationally effective until they can be replaced by Firelink. Cost information relating to the main procurement is commercially sensitive. The multi-disciplinary project team comprises ODPM staff, secondees from the fire and rescue services and technical consultants.

Hazardous Waste Treatment Plants

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what planning applications have been made in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2005 to date for hazardous waste treatment plants; and what the capacity and location of each plant is. [3451]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many and what percentage of children with *(a)* a disability and *(b)* a serious medical condition that requires adapted housing live in accommodation that is not fit for purpose in each English region. [2434]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many local authority-owned properties in each London borough do not meet the Government's decent homes standard; and what the estimated cost is of bringing them up to that standard. [2523]

Yvette Cooper: The number of local authority-owned properties that do not meet the Government's decent homes standard, along with the estimated cost of bringing them up to that standard, are shown in the following table, for each London borough. The data are as reported to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in the 2004 HIP Business Plan Statistical Appendices.

Authority	*Number of LA owned non decent dwellings at 1 April 2004*	*Cost to make all dwellings decent at 1 April 2004 (£000)*
Barking and Dagenham	11,091	129,000
Barnet	6,047	16,329
Brent	4,313	81,425
Camden	23,324	301,321
City of London	1,015	2,455
Croydon	3,325	24,251
Ealing	5,598	86,384
Enfield	3,710	12,289
Greenwich	17,693	122,993
Hackney	18,488	320,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,548	26,804
Haringey	9,741	45,366
Harrow	2,685	8,962
Havering	2,391	4,939
Hillingdon	3,405	34,047
Hounslow	5,258	34,110
Islington	16,829	192,272
Kensington and Chelsea	3036	42,968
Kingston upon Thames	1,423	[1]
Lambeth	12,747	41,237
Lewisham	16,259	137,854
Merton	1,852	6,350
Newham	9,812	142,901
Redbridge	1,307	3,121
Southwark	20,070	405,579
Sutton	3,506	27,921
Tower Hamlets	18,218	197,307
Waltham Forest	9,226	168,620
Wandsworth	795	6,259
Westminster	4,272	80,675

[1] Indicates missing data

Anne Main: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department has made an assessment of the impact of levying VAT on the refurbishment and enlargement of older homes but not on new build homes on *(a)* the character of (i) St Albans and (ii) market towns with a significant stock of older homes, *(b)* the number of houses built before 1930 that are demolished and *(c)* the implementation of regionally imposed planning targets; and if he will make a statement. [1391]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not made these assessments.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes have *(a)* no and *(b)* partial central heating in each English region; and what percentage this is of the dwelling stock. [2436]

Yvette Cooper: The available information, for homes with no central or programmable heating within each region in 2001, is published at Table 11, page 30 of the English House Condition Survey 2001: Regional Report (ODPM, 2003).

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much funding for housing the London borough of Haringey council has received in each financial year since the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 came into force; and if he will make a statement; [3974]

(2) how many applicants for funding under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 within the London borough of Haringey have been *(a)* successful, *(b)* refused and *(c)* put on a waiting list; and if he will make a statement. [3975]

Yvette Cooper: Government funding in support of the London borough of Haringey's housing capital investment programme since 1996 has been (in £1,000s) as follows:

	Supported borrowing	*Major repairs allowance (introduced in 2001–02)*	*Disabled facilities grant*	*Private sector renewal grant*	*Total*
1997–98	12,215	—	311	1,402	13,928
1998–99	14,341	—	396	1,150	15,887
1999–2000	14,109	—	435	1,265	15,809
2000–01	27,652	—	547	0	28,199
2001–02	18,697	13,403	567	0	32,667
2002–03	20,127	13,447	526	158	34,258
2003–04	15,925	13,799	556	286	30,566
2004–05	12,253	12,643	475	17	25,388
2005–06	12,753	12,272	484	0	25,509

From 2000–01 Government support for private sector housing renewal grants was no longer ring fenced and was included in the total for supported borrowing, except for residual payments relating to committed expenditure in renewal areas.

The Government do not collect centrally the number of applications for renewal grants or information on waiting lists. The number and the total value of renewal grants under the 1996 Act completed in Haringey in each year since 1997 are as follows:

Private sector housing renewal assistance given in Haringey (including DFGs)

	Total number of grants completed	*Total local authority expenditure on grants (£000)*
1997–98	387	2,956
1998–99	432	2,585
1999–2000	421	2,847
2000–01	333	4,178
2001–02	586	5,906
2002–03	521	3,727
2003–04	717	7,527

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people are on waiting lists to be rehoused in each London borough. [2525]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 492–93W.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many grade *(a)* one and *(b)* two listed buildings in England have been (i) demolished, (ii) lost by fire and (iii) otherwise lost since 1997. [3400]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available in the format specified. English Heritage who maintain the statutory list however confirmed that 683 buildings have been removed from the statutory list since 31 December 1996.

Local Authority Housing Stock

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to implement his plans to allow councils to resume building of council housing. [1750]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* Local authorities have been given the financial freedom to build new social housing through the Private Finance Initiative. Increasingly local authorities are taking up this option.

Local Government

Mr. Allen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the progress made by local authorities in producing written constitutions; and if he will make a statement. [2825]

Mr. Woolas: By the end of December 2002 all principal local authorities had adopted and implemented their constitutions, under the Local Government Act 2000. The Act requires each local authority to keep its constitution up to date and to make copies available for inspection by members of the public.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the *(a)* housing, *(b)* regeneration and *(c)* social exclusion scheme funding streams that will be in operation in 2005–06. [1115]

Yvette Cooper: The following lists set out the funding streams from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister currently in operation in 2005–06:

Housing:

Arms Length Management Organisations
Best Value Intervention in Housing
Disabled Facilities Grants
Gypsy Site Grant
Homelessness
Housing Action Trusts

Housing Bill Implementation (Home Buying and Selling, Landlord Licensing and Safety Ratings, Tenants Deposit Scheme)

Housing Defects Grants/Loan Charges

Housing Management Grants

Housing Mobility Service

Housing Revenue Account Subsidy

Large Scale Voluntary Transfers—gap funding and repayment of overhanging debt

Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service

Choice-based Letting Schemes

Local Authority Social Housing Grant—Transitional Compensation

Private Housing Renewal

Private Landlords in Low Demand Areas

Programme efficiencies in social housing

Residential Property Tribunal Service

Safer Communities Supported Housing Fund

Single Housing Capital Pot (includes Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme and Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure for Housing)

Supporting People

The National Approved Letting Scheme

Regeneration:

Coalfields funding (Enterprise Fund and Regeneration Trust)

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Design Awards

English Partnerships (including Commission for the New Towns)

European Regional Development Fund

Groundwork and National Urban Forestry Unit

Housing Market Renewal Fund

Interreg (European funding stream)

Lea Valley Regional Park

Liveability Fund

Living Spaces

Mersey Basin

New Deal for Communities

New Ventures Fund

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Other Growth Areas

Regional Development Agencies (including London Development Agency)

Single Regeneration Budget

Special Grants Programme

Thames Gateway

Green Flags

Liveability Performance

Academy for Sustainable Communities (formerly Urban Design Skills)

The Government also funds the work of the Social Exclusion Unit. The Unit does not administer funding streams directly but does work with Government Departments and other stakeholders to ensure that a wide range of Government funding programmes contribute to the reduction of social exclusion.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister also funds research on housing, regeneration and social exclusion.

Local Strategic Partnerships

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what executive powers local strategic partnerships have. [2644]

Mr. Woolas: Local strategic partnerships (LSPs) are non-statutory, non-executive bodies which bring together public, private, voluntary and community interests to work together more effectively. They have no executive powers and rely on the goodwill of their partners to operate.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the composition of each local strategic partnership is. [2646]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does not hold information on the composition of each local strategic partnerships (LSPs). LSPs are non-statutory bodies intended to provide a forum for a range of local organisations and interests, with the specific membership of individual LSPs dependent on local circumstances. However, research shows that almost all LSPs have high representation from across the local public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

London Housing Board

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library the minutes of his meetings with the London Housing Board in *(a)* December 2003 and *(b)* January 2004 concerning its recommendations on investment allocations in 2004 to 2006. [3937]

Yvette Cooper: There were no meetings between the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Ministers and the London Housing Board in December 2003 or January 2004. Minutes and papers for London Housing Board meetings are available on the Government Office for London website (www.gos.gov.uk/gol).

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will require the London Housing Board to dedicate sufficient resources to ensure that it delivers the London Plan target of 70 per cent. of new affordable housing being social rented homes. [3938]

Yvette Cooper: Decisions on the allocation of resources for housing investment in England are taken by Ministers in the light of national and regional housing objectives. Regional Housing Boards provide recommendations on the split of funding for their region between different activities and the distribution across the region. These recommendations need to take account of national housing targets and regional priorities and any targets set out in Regional Housing and Spatial Strategies.

Housing Boards are currently submitting recommendations on allocation of resources for 2006–07 and 2007–08. Decisions on these, including the balance of funding for social rented and other affordable housing in London, will be taken later this year.

Mobile Phone Masts

Mr. Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to review national planning policy guidance on mobile telephone telecommunications masts; and if he will make a statement. [2740]

Yvette Cooper: Current planning guidance for all electronic communication developments is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (revised) (PPG8). The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has also issued a Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development. In September last year we commissioned the University of Reading and Arup to undertake an independent study to assess the impact that the code has had since its introduction. The report will be published in due course. This forms part of a review the Government are undertaking of all the planning arrangements surrounding telecommunication masts.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received since 2001 against the current planning law on mobile phone telecommunications masts; and if he will make a statement. [2747]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister receives many representations on matters relating to the telecommunications industry. The information about such representations is not readily available in the breakdown requested and could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

Mortgage Possession Orders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many mortgage possession orders were made in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [2451]

Yvette Cooper: Data on mortgage possession proceedings for England and Wales are collected by the Department of Constitutional Affairs from HM Courts Service and published on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_housing/documents/page/odpm_house_604098.xls.

The figures record how many possession proceedings have been issued, but do not indicate how many properties were actually taken into possession, since many orders will not be enforced. That information is not separately recorded.

Negative Subsidy

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was taken in negative subsidy from *(a)* all housing associations and *(b)* housing associations in Tamworth in each of the last two years. [3337]

Yvette Cooper: Housing associations are not part of the housing revenue account subsidy system.

Parking Meters

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many parking meters there were in each London borough per 1,000 population in the last year for which figures are available. [2455]

Ms Buck: I have been asked to reply.

Since 3 July 2000, the Mayor has had overall responsibility for traffic management in London. However, responsibility for parking enforcement in London generally rests with the relevant local authority. It is a matter for individual local authorities to decide on the nature and scope of parking controls, including the number of parking meter and pay and display parking spaces, and to balance the needs of residents, emergency services, local business and those who work and travel in the area.

While we do not hold any up to date figures, the Association of London Government has provided the following information:

Borough	*Number of parking meter spaces*	*Number of pay and display spaces*[1]
Barking and Dagenham	0	44
Barnet	36	79
Bexley	294	136
Brent	0	600
Bromley	28	6,103
Camden	1,127	2,591
Corporation of London	0	889
Croydon	0	643
Ealing	0	600
Enfield	0	600
Greenwich	352	0
Hackney	—	562
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0
Haringey	—	676
Harrow	—	628
Havering	200	0
Hillingdon	44	380
Hounslow	137	148
Islington	0	4,829
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	0	6,000
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames	32	598
Lambeth	372	2,700
Lewisham	374	n/a
Merton	47	415
Newham	0	344
Redbridge	393	391
Richmond-upon-Thames	335	255
Southwark	1,000	—
Sutton	0	907
Tower Hamlets	0	1,188
Waltham Forest	0	200
Wandsworth	0	4,026
Westminster City Council	4,568	3,000

[1] Number includes only local authority-owned pay & display space. Privately-owned off-street pay and display spaces are not included.

Mid-year population estimates (thousands, 1993–03) are shown in the following table.

thousand

Borough	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Barking and Dagenham	162.4	163.9	165.7	165.9	165.9
Barnet	313.5	315.8	319.5	322.3	324.4
Bexley	217.5	218.7	218.8	218.6	219.1
Brent	260.3	264.9	269.6	269.7	267.8
Bromley	294.9	295.3	296.2	297.1	298.3
Camden	190.0	196.2	202.6	207.0	210.7
City of London	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.7	8.0
Croydon	332.1	334.2	335.1	335.9	336.7
Ealing	302.3	304.4	307.3	307.8	305.0
Enfield	272.7	275.1	277.3	280.0	280.3
Greenwich	212.2	214.4	217.5	221.1	223.7
Hackney	199.1	203.4	207.2	208.9	208.4
Hammersmith and Fulham	160.6	164.4	169.4	172.7	174.2
Haringey	218.6	219.8	221.3	224.3	224.7
Harrow	207.9	209.1	210.0	211.3	210.7

thousand

Borough	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Havering	225.7	225.1	224.7	224.5	224.6
Hillingdon	245.1	245.9	245.6	246.8	247.6
Hounslow	214.3	214.7	216.0	215.4	212.9
Islington	175.7	177.9	179.4	180.2	180.1
Kensington and Chelsea	147.7	154.7	162.2	168.4	174.4
Kingston upon Thames	146.0	147.3	149.0	150.1	150.4
Lambeth	266.8	270.0	273.4	271.1	268.5
Lewisham	250.3	252.1	254.3	251.9	248.3
Merton	185.1	188.2	191.1	191.7	191.4
Newham	240.5	245.5	249.4	251.8	250.6
Redbridge	238.1	239.9	241.9	242.4	245.1
Richmond upon Thames	172.8	172.9	174.3	176.5	179.2
Southwark	247.9	252.7	256.7	255.4	253.8
Sutton	179.4	180.5	181.5	180.2	178.5
Tower Hamlets	193.5	197.1	201.1	204.6	206.6
Waltham Forest	221.1	221.3	222.0	221.9	221.6
Wandsworth	264.2	267.7	271.7	273.5	274.1
Westminster	189.2	196.5	203.3	214.4	222.0

Source:
ONS, Date: 09/09/04

Playing Fields

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many applications for planning permission on school playing fields were approved in each English region in each quarter since 1997. [2412]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the Private Finance Initiative and Public Private Partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2373]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently undertaking the following Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public Private Partnerships (PPP) projects.

Signed and Operational PFI/PPP projects

Authority/Body	
QE II Conference Centre	Catering PFI Project
NE Derbyshire district council	Holmwood Social Housing PFI Project
Derby city council	Social Housing PFI
LB Islington	Street Properties I
Manchester city council	A6 Plymouth Grove Housing PFI
Selby	Selby, Sherburn and Tadcaster Housing PFI
LB Hammersmith and Fulham	Future Services for Older People, Housing PFI
LB Reading	North Whitley Housing PFI
Warrington borough council	Anson and Blenheim Close, Social Housing PFI
Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire Fire Authorities	Fire Training Facility PFI
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	Fire Training Facility and Fire Station PFI
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority	Fire Vehicles and Equipment PFI
Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service	Divisional HQ and two fire stations PFI
Cornwall County Council—Fire Service	Fire Stations
Greater Manchester County Fire Service	Stretford Divisional Headquarters and Fire Station
South Wales Fire Authority	PFI Training Centre for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Tyne and Wear Fire and Civil Defence Authority	New HQ and community fire stations
Bolton	Community Learning Resource Centre (joint with DfES and DCMS)
Bournemouth	Library (joint with DCMS)
Brighton	Library (joint with DCMS)
Brighton	Schools PFI Project (joint with DfES)
Cambridgeshire	Community ICT Network
Cheshire	Ellesmere Port Schools/Community Facilities (joint with DfES)
Copeland	Office Regeneration
Croydon	Customer Focus
Hackney	Technology and Learning Centre
Liverpool	Speke Learning Centre (joint with DfES)
North Wiltshire	Property Rationalisation
Norwich	Norwich Connect
Redcar and Cleveland	Office Accommodation
Sheffield	Office Accommodation
Sunderland	City Learning Centre (joint with DfES and DCMS)
Tower Hamlets	Mulberry Schools and Community Sports Facilities (joint with DfES)
Trafford	Sale New Civic Centre Office Accommodation
Essex	Clacton JSC (joint with DfES)
Sefton	Crosby Leisure Centre
Uttlesford	Three New Sports and Leisure Centres
Kent CC	Strategic IT
L.B. Harrow	Revenues Benefits
Derby city council	Revenues Benefits
Signed but not Operational PFI/PPP Projects	
Leeds city council	Swarcliffe Housing PFI
London borough of Newham	Canning Town Housing PFI
Stoke-on-Trent	Bentilee District Centre
Oldham	Library and Lifelong Learning Centre (joint with DCMS)
L.B. Barking and Dagenham	Joint Service Centre (joint with DfES)

Property Searches

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average time taken to conduct a standard search on a property was in each English region in each year since 1997. [2419]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not collect data on average time taken for a standard search.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector Land

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether any *(a)* vacant and *(b)* surplus public sector-owned site being reviewed by English Partnerships is (i) in and (ii) in close proximity to a (A) conservation area and (B) site of special scientific interest. [2407]

Yvette Cooper: English Partnerships' review of the sites on the register of surplus public sector land will help to confirm whether any are in or close to conservation areas and sites of special scientific interest. The principle source of information for English Partnerships' review will be the local plans covering the areas in which the sites are located.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish the survey of surplus brownfield public sector-owned land undertaken by English Partnerships. [2460]

Yvette Cooper: English Partnerships is undertaking a review of sites on the register of surplus public sector land they maintain on behalf of Government. As at March 2005 there were 713 sites on the register. Sites are continually being added to the Register as they are identified as surplus by landowners in central government and removed once they receive expressions of interests after a site has been marketed. A list of the sites, as at March 2005, can be found on the English Partnerships website at: http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/images/16EE954C904340DDAB44702EF5D2ADE6.pdf English Partnerships will publish a quarterly update of sites on the Register.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

Keith Vaz: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Office comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3528]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is the responsibility of each public authority (which include Government Departments, local authorities, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies) to ensure that it is acting in compliance with its duties on race relations.

We published the draft 2005–08 race equality scheme for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on 31 May 2005 for consultation. The draft scheme covers all policies and functions across the ODPM and its three executive agencies, as well as the employment practices of the nine regional Government offices and their delivery of ODPM's policies. The draft scheme identifies clear aims and outcomes for each work area, which will be reviewed and updated every twelve months. The actions set out are vital in assisting us to develop and deliver policies and operations effective in a multi-ethnic society.

Our consultation closes at the end of August; the draft scheme will then be revised as necessary and republished in mid-October.

Recycling

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent by each London borough on recycling services in the last year for which figures are available. [2475]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Regeneration Expenditure

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much, and what percentage, of money allocated for regeneration has been spent on *(a)* lawyers and *(b)* consultants in each year since 1997. [2416]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed in May 2002. The Office holds no information prior to 2002. Departmental records taken from the SAP reporting system show expenditure attributed to consultancy and its percentage of the total spend on regeneration. There is no recorded expenditure for legal fees. Details of available spend information are as follows:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*
Total expenditure (£)	3,188,140,060	4,016,727,454	3,852,655,244
Consultancy (£)	37,079	854,376	1,432,912
Consultancy (percentage)	0.001163	0.02127	0.03719
Legal (£)	0	0	16,000
Legal (percentage)	0	0	0.000415

Rent Arrears

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was owed to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations in rent arrears on the last date for which figures are available. [2418]

Yvette Cooper: In English local authorities, current tenants' cumulative arrears of rent at the end of 2003–04, excluding arrears of council tax, water rates and heating and service charges, was £277 million. The corresponding amount for former tenants was £205 million, giving a total of £482 million.

At the end of 2003–04, English housing associations were owed by current and former tenants £385 million in cumulative rent arrears.

Right to Buy

Tim Farron: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department plans to amend the cap on the discounts tenants in council housing wanting to purchase their own property are eligible to receive. [4034]

Yvette Cooper: There are no current plans to amend the cap on discounts for tenants in council housing wanting to purchase 100 per cent. of the home they live in. However, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is consulting on a series of options for tenants wishing to purchase a share of their home under Social Homebuy.

Second Homes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many second homes there were in each local authority area, and what proportion this was of the local housing stock, in each year since 1997. [2431]

Yvette Cooper: The available information has been made available in the Library of the House.

Tim Farron: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to make changes to planning law to ensure that an application for change of category of use of a residential dwelling must be made before a property can be purchased for the purpose of using it as a second home. [3407]

Yvette Cooper: In its manifesto, the Government made a commitment to set up a housing commission to explore mechanisms that would increase access to affordable housing for people who live and work in rural areas. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are currently scoping the terms of reference for the commission and an announcement will be made shortly. It is anticipated that the commission will consider whether there is any case for government intervention, through planning control or otherwise, on second homes.

Tim Farron: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of the impact on *(a)* affordability and *(b)* availability of homes for local people of high levels of second home ownership. [3408]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister recognises the concerns that are felt, particularly in rural communities, about the impact of second home ownership on the affordability and availability of homes for local people. We have accordingly taken a number of steps to alleviate housing pressures in areas with high levels of second home ownership. In particular, we have reduced the council tax discount for second homes, and have made changes to planning policy to enable local authorities to allocate sites solely for affordable housing for local people in perpetuity, alongside a continuing rural exception approach.

Sickness Absence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average number of days' sickness absence taken by staff in *(a)* all local authorities and *(b)* each local authority was in each year since 1997. [2450]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold information on local authority sickness absence prior to the introduction of Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) from April 2000. Since then, local authorities have reported their performance against BV12 "Working days lost due to sickness absence". The average number of days' sickness absence as reported against BV12 in all authorities and each county and district authority each year since 2000–01 has been made available in the Library of the House.

These data from 2001–02 are also available on the Best Value Performance Indicator website at www.bvpi.gov.uk.

Social Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were on the housing need list in Coventry, South on the latest date for which figures are available; how many new lettings there were in the constituency in 2004–05; and how many new dwellings are expected to become available for new tenancies within the constituency in 2005–06. [2784]

Yvette Cooper: Information is not collected at constituency level, only at local authority level. Summary information for Coventry city council is tabled, which shows

the number of households on the housing waiting lists at 1 April 2004;

the number of Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) lettings made to new tenants during 2004–05; and

the number of new RSL dwellings planned for rent covering two years, 2004–05 and 2005–06.

Coventry city council transferred all council housing owned by them to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in 2000–01. The council now maintains a common waiting list with RSLs in their district. However, information is not held centrally where a RSL maintains a separate waiting list to the local authority.

The number of new RSL dwellings planned for rent has been provided covering two years as the Housing Corporation now plan the building of new RSL dwellings using a two-year allocation process.

Housing waiting list numbers, new RSL lettings made and new RSL dwellings planned for rent in 2004–05 and 2005–06

	Coventry city council
Households on the housing waiting list at 1 April 2004	9,650
Number of RSL lettings to new tenants during 2004–05	2,847
Number of new RSL dwellings planned for rent in 2004–05 and 2005–06 [1]	164

[1] Figure represents allocations for rent schemes, both new build and acquisition and refurbishment over the two years 2004–06 at time of the Housing Corporation's submission to Ministers for approval of their Approved Development Programme (ADP).

Source:
ODPM's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return, Housing Corporation's CORE return and the Housing Corporation's ADP records.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many social houses to rent were provided in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* Plymouth in 2004. [3040]

Yvette Cooper: The number of new affordable homes provided for rent through the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme and Transitional Local Authority Social Housing Grant for 2004–05 in Devon CC (excluding Plymouth and Torbay), Plymouth and Torbay are shown as follows.

	Number
Devon CC	299
Plymouth	125
Torbay	43

Note:
These figures include new build dwellings, acquisitions and refurbishments.
Source:
Housing Corporation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council received from the Local Authority Social Housing Grant in the year before it was abolished. [2559]

Yvette Cooper: Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) was abolished from 1 April 2003. Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council received £1.85 million of LASHG funding in 2002–03.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the reasons were for the abolition of the local authority social housing grant. [2561]

Yvette Cooper: Local authority social housing grant (LASHG) was an unfair funding mechanism that did not allocate funds to areas of greatest need, consistently underspent nationally, and gave unfair advantage to debt free local authorities. It was abolished on 1 April 2003. Under new arrangements, resources for housing are targeted to areas of greatest need, in line with the measures set out in "Sustainable communities: building for the future".

South East England Regional Assembly

Anne Milton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the role is of the South East England regional assembly in respect of waste and incineration policy. [3369]

Yvette Cooper: Initially the South East England regional assembly is responsible for drafting the regional waste strategy, which forms part of the regional spatial strategy for the south east. Once the draft strategy has been tested and finalised by Government, the assembly becomes responsible for implementing and monitoring the strategy. Government expects to consult on further changes of the regional waste strategy this summer.

Streetcare Inspectors

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many streetcare inspectors were employed by each London borough per 1,000 population in the last period for which figures are available. [2464]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold this information.

Streetlights

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many local authority-maintained streetlights there were in each London borough per 1,000 population in the last period for which figures are available. [2469]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently processing up-to-date data on the number of streetlighting columns in England. This data will be available shortly.

Traffic Wardens

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many traffic wardens were employed by each London borough per 1,000 population in the last year for which figures are available. [2454]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 3 July 2000, the Mayor has had overall responsibility for traffic management in London. Traffic wardens are employed by Transport for London to enforce parking on the Priority (Red) Route Network (TfL Roads).

However, responsibility for parking enforcement in London, generally rests with the relevant local authority. London boroughs employ parking attendants to enforce parking controls on all the roads for which they are the highway authority.

The Association of London Government has provided the following information:

Borough	Number of parking attendants
Barking and Dagenham	14
Barnet	37
Bexley	25
Brent	65
Bromley	29
Camden	248
Corporation of London	59
Croydon	81
Ealing	70
Enfield	46
Greenwich	20
Hackney	72
Hammersmith and Fulham	85
Haringey	40
Harrow	22
Havering	15
Hillingdon	45
Hounslow	40
Islington	158
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	151
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames	30
Lambeth	131
Lewisham	20
Merton	25
Newham	50
Redbridge	40
Richmond-upon-Thames	43
Southwark	59
Sutton	22
Tower Hamlets	38
Waltham Forest	45
Wandsworth	86
Westminster city council	388

Mid-year population estimates (thousands, 1993–2003) are shown in the following table.

Thousand

Borough	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Barking and Dagenham	162.4	163.9	165.7	165.9	165.9
Barnet	313.5	315.8	319.5	322.3	324.4
Bexley	217.5	218.7	218.8	218.6	219.1
Brent	260.3	264.9	269.6	269.7	267.8
Bromley	294.9	295.3	296.2	297.1	298.3
Camden	190.0	196.2	202.6	207.0	210.7
City of London	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.7	8.0
Croydon	332.1	334.2	335.1	335.9	336.7
Ealing	302.3	304.4	307.3	307.8	305.0
Enfield	272.7	275.1	277.3	280.0	280.3

Thousand

Borough	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Greenwich	212.2	214.4	217.5	221.1	223.7
Hackney	199.1	203.4	207.2	208.9	208.4
Hammersmith and Fulham	160.6	164.4	169.4	172.7	174.2
Haringey	218.6	219.8	221.3	224.3	224.7
Harrow	207.9	209.1	210.0	211.3	210.7
Havering	225.7	225.1	224.7	224.5	224.6
Hillingdon	245.1	245.9	245.6	246.8	247.6
Hounslow	214.3	214.7	216.0	215.4	212.9
Islington	175.7	177.9	179.4	180.2	180.1
Kensington and Chelsea	147.7	154.7	162.2	168.4	174.4
Kingston upon Thames	146.0	147.3	149.0	150.1	150.4
Lambeth	266.8	270.0	273.4	271.1	268.5
Lewisham	250.3	252.1	254.3	251.9	248.3
Merton	185.1	188.2	191.1	191.7	191.4
Newham	240.5	245.5	249.4	251.8	250.6
Redbridge	238.1	239.9	241.9	242.4	245.1
Richmond upon Thames	172.8	172.9	174.3	176.5	179.2
Southwark	247.9	252.7	256.7	255.4	253.8
Sutton	179.4	180.5	181.5	180.2	178.5
Tower Hamlets	193.5	197.1	201.1	204.6	206.6
Waltham Forest	221.1	221.3	222.0	221.9	221.6
Wandsworth	264.2	267.7	271.7	273.5	274.1
Westminster	189.2	196.5	203.3	214.4	222.0

Source:
ONS. Date: 9 September 2004

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Afghanistan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on the threat to women from rape, abduction, sexual violence and forced marriage; and if he will make a statement. [2572]

Dr. Howells: The UK and other EU member states regularly raise human rights issues with the Afghan Government, including the rights of women and girls.

Women's rights in Afghanistan are protected by the new constitution, ratified in January 2004. The constitution contains specific articles on women's equality and rights of political participation. The constitution also requires the Government to uphold their obligations under international law. Rape and forced marriage are both prohibited by Afghanistan's obligations under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, both of which Afghanistan has ratified. As we have stated in the past, it is important that these rights now be implemented in practice.

In 2004–05 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is providing £240,000 over two years to the Bar Council to train Afghan legal practitioners in human rights and women's rights advocacy.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff in his Department are deployed in Afghanistan. [3695]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently has 24 staff serving in Afghanistan. They are complemented by a number of officers seconded from other Departments. The total number of UK staff in Afghanistan changes on a regular basis.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the projected levels of deployment for his Department's personnel to Afghanistan is by the *(a)* end of 2005, *(b)* middle of 2006 and *(c)* end of 2006. [3697]

Dr. Howells: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staffing levels are kept under constant review. Current plans for future FCO staffing in Afghanistan do not envisage any significant change to the number currently deployed.

Charter of Fundamental Rights

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list those cases in which the Charter of Fundamental Rights has been cited as a source of law or guidance for the European Court of Justice in *(a)* the Advocate-General's opinions and *(b)* the judges' decisions; and if he will make a statement. [2804]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The fundamental rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and the common constitutional traditions of the member states have for many years been cited in the case law of the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance: in parties' submissions to the Court, in opinions of the Advocates General and in the judgments of the Courts. Though not legally binding, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the Union is a recent and high profile political statement of the rights, freedoms and principles applicable in the EU and as such have since its adoption in 2000 been referred to frequently by litigants, and by the Advocates General and the CFI.

A search of the Court's website provides a list of officially reported cases which contain references to the Charter at some point in the opinion or judgment. These references however appear in the summaries of the parties' arguments as well as in the paragraphs setting out the reasoning of the judges and Advocates General. A detailed analysis of the extent to which the judges or the Advocates General relied on the charter in reaching their conclusions on the merits of the case could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The list can be found at:

http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=en&Submit=Submit&docj=docj&docop=docop&numaff=&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=%22charter+of+fundamental+rights%22&resmax=

China

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of the UK's objectives in the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue have been achieved in the last 12 months. [3083]

Ian Pearson: The objectives of the UK China Human Rights Dialogue are long term and ambitious. The 2005 issue of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Human Rights report will, when published this summer, provide an update on the mixed progress there has been towards fulfilling these objectives.

We continue to encourage China to take steps to improve their record on human rights. The latest round of dialogue took place on 6 June 2005.

Colombia

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Colombian authorities regarding death threats to the Colombian Inter-Ecclesiastical Commission for Justice and Peace. [3396]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On behalf of the European Union, the Dutch ambassador in Bogota (in his capacity as local EU presidency) recently raised with the Colombian Government the EU's concerns over these specific threats to Justice and Peace, a non-governmental organisation that seeks to defend human rights. The presidency sought assurances that measures would be taken to protect the people concerned. The British embassy also hosted a meeting between Justice and Peace and the diplomatic corps shortly after the threats became public to demonstrate support for Justice and Peace. We regularly raise specific human rights cases, either unilaterally or as part of the EU, with the Colombian authorities. We also urge the Colombian Government to implement the recommendations arising from successive annual reports from the Colombia office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and have offered our assistance to achieve this.

Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers from his Department will attend the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition in September. [3939]

Dr. Howells: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers currently have no plans to attend the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition in September.

British Detainees (Torture Allegations)

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many times in each of the last five years his Department has requested an impartial investigation by the relevant national authorities into allegations of the torture or ill-treatment of British citizens detained abroad; [4153]

(2) how many times in each of the last five years the Department has raised concerns about the torture or ill-treatment of British citizens detained abroad with the relevant national authorities; [4154]

(3) how many times in each of the last five years the Department has received representations regarding the torture or ill-treatment of British citizens detained abroad. [4155]

Dr. Howells: Information about action taken in relation to allegations of mistreatment of British nationals in detention overseas is kept on individual case files. We do not keep central records which would enable me to provide exact figures. It would incur disproportionate cost to undertake the research necessary to provide the information requested. However, we do take such allegations very seriously and our policy on raising these cases with the relevant authorities is actively pursued, taking into consideration the particular circumstances of each case.

EU Constitution

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the budget for informing the public about the EU, including the treaty establishing a constitution for Europe, has been spent, broken down by category of activity. [1179]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No final decisions have yet been made on communications activities on the EU constitutional treaty for financial year 2005–06. The separate budget for communicating the UK presidency of the EU to the British public will be spent during the presidency itself.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his oral statement of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 991–1005, on the EU Constitutional Treaty, on what grounds the Government believe that the new vote weighting system for the Council of the European Union proposed in the Constitution for Europe is in the UK's interests; and if he will make a statement. [2803]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Constitutional Treaty includes a simplified system of qualified majority voting where a minimum number of member states representing a minimum percentage of the EU's population are required to pass legislation. As set out in the September 2004 White Paper on the EU Constitutional Treaty[1] (Cm 6309), the Government are happy with the new mechanism which provides a reasonable balance between passing and blocking legislation. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Commentary on the Treaty (Cm 6459) provides a detailed analysis in the changes in voting rules which would be introduced by the EU Constitutional Treaty.

EU Fraud

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the incidence of fraud in each EU programme has been in each of the last five years; what steps are being taken to guard against such fraud; and if he will make a statement. [2762]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government do not hold such information. The most useful information on this subject is available from the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). Member states are required to report cases of irregularities, including possible fraud, to OLAF. The Commission publishes the resulting figures in its annual "Fight Against Fraud" report. These figures include cases of suspected fraud, but OLAF has not until now published separate figures for fraud. The figures for irregularities for 2003 and the previous four years can be found in the annex to the latest report (COM (2004) 573 final, 30 August 2004), available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/anti_fraud/reports/commission/2003/en.pdf

We expect the report covering 2004 to be published later this year—probably in August—and we understand that this will include an analysis of the extent of fraud.

The Government takes all instances of fraud or suspected fraud very seriously, and continually presses the Commission and other member states to take

effective anti-fraud measures to protect the EU budgets, in line with their treaty obligations. Although the Commission has overall responsibility for EU budget implementation, over 80 per cent. of the budget is managed by member states. They, and not the EC institutions, are responsible for any irregularities or fraud occurring in the part of the budget that they administer.

The European Commission has carried out reforms during the past few years which are intended to reduce and prevent fraud. The current financial regulation, which governs all transactions entered into by the European institutions, defines accountability, ensures stringent audit requirements and a modernised accounting system, and requires all spending to be subject to objective-setting and evaluation. The new EC staff regulation of May 2004 introduced measures to protect whistleblowers. The Commission evaluated the effectiveness of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) thoroughly in 2003 and the European Court of Auditors' report on OLAF, which will further review OLAF's performance and achievements, will be published shortly.

Hamas

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations the Department made to Hamas at the recent meeting held between his officials and Hamas members on *(a)* ceasing and *(b)* ceasing support for violent attacks on Israel; what representations were made to Hamas members themselves; and if he will make a statement; [3116]

(2) on what dates he expects meetings between his officials and Hamas members to take place; in what circumstances such meetings would be held; who he expects will attend from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Hamas; what issues he expects to be on the agenda; and if he will make a statement; [3117]

(3) what representations his Department received from Israel on a meeting between his officials and Hamas members; what discussions with Israel the Department held *(a)* before and *(b)* after the meeting with Hamas; and if he will make a statement; [3118]

(4) on what dates his officials met members of Hamas; which officials were present; which Hamas members were present; what issues were discussed; what decisions were taken; what the outcome of the meetings were; and if he will make a statement; [3119]

(5) what his policy is on official meetings of UK Government representatives with Hamas. [3120]

Dr. Howells: On 7 March a member of staff from the Consulate-General in Jerusalem met the recently-appointed Mayor of Deir al-Balah. On 2 June a member of staff from the Consulate-General in Jerusalem, accompanied by a colleague from the British Embassy, met the Acting Mayor of Qalqilya. In both meetings British officials made clear the Government's demand that Hamas renounce violence and recognise Israel's right to exist. They also discussed the municipality services and budget and the political, economic and humanitarian situation with both Mayors. No decisions were taken at either of these meetings, nor were there specific "outcomes".

No further meetings with elected members of Hamas are planned. The UK Government will have no contacts with the leadership of Hamas until they have dropped their commitment to the destruction of the state of Israel, and renounced the use of violence.

Officials have had several exchanges with their Israeli counterparts. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed these contacts with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on 7 June.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with officials in his Department concerning meetings between his officials and members of Hamas; and if he will make a statement; [3288]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* Israel and *(b)* the Palestinian Authority concerning meetings between his officials and members of Hamas; and if he will make a statement; [3289]

(3) when, and on how many occasions, since the death of Yasser Arafat, officials from his Department have met members of Hamas. [3290]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's decision in February—to authorise working-level contacts in the normal course of business with Hamas elected representatives not directly implicated in violence—drew on advice from officials, including representatives in the region.

Officials have had several exchanges with their Israeli counterparts. The Foreign Secretary discussed these contacts with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on 7 June and Abu Mazen on 8 June.

British officials have knowingly met members of Hamas on two occasions since the death of President Arafat. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) (UINs 3116 to 3120) for details of those meetings, *Official Report*, 13 June 2005, col. 135W.

The deputy consul-general in Jerusalem was placed next to a senior Hamas official at President Abbas' inauguration in January. They exchanged courtesies but had no substantive conversation.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what position UK representatives are taking in discussions at the United Nations on the extension of the mandate for troops in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [2933]

Dr. Howells: There are currently no discussions taking place in the UN on the extension of the mandate for troops in Iraq. On 31 May 2005 the UN Security Council reviewed resolution 1546 which authorises the presence of the multinational force in Iraq, and agreed upon the continuation of the mandate "until the completion of the political process", in accordance with the resolution and at the request of the Iraqi

Government. The UK believes that the presence of the multinational force in Iraq should continue to be at the request of the Iraqi government.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers were given copies of Foreign Office briefings on the legality of military action in Iraq prior to the commencement of hostilities. [3086]

Dr. Howells: The Government received advice from the Attorney-General on the legality issue. As the Government's chief legal adviser, his advice is final and authoritative within Government. All Ministers were well aware of my right hon. and noble Friend the Attorney-General's decision with respect to the legality of the military action, before the commencement of hostilities.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action was taken in response to representations made on 12 March 2004 by Theo von Boven, UN special rapporteur on torture, in relation to four men reportedly held incommunicado in detention by the Badr organisation in Basra. [3085]

Dr. Howells: Mr. Boven's letter was addressed to the US Government, marked for the attention of Paul Bremer. We are pursuing with the US what action was taken.

Kuril Islands

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Japan's attempts to regain the Kuril Islands. [3273]

Ian Pearson: We consider the matter to be primarily a bilateral issue between Russia and Japan. We hope the dispute over the islands can be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

Kalahari Game Reserve

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is towards the San claim to its ancestral land in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. [3602]

Ian Pearson: We are aware of the ancestral links, which the San (Basarwa) have to the land in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) and its significance to their traditional nomadic lifestyle. We have some reservations about the way in which the removal of the Basarwa from the CKGR has been handled and have raised these with the Government of Botswana. Through our high commission in Gaborone, we continue to encourage the Government of Botswana to participate in constructive dialogue with the San and the negotiating team that represents their interests.

Landmines

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK is making to *(a)* the NATO Trust Fund project for the destruction of anti-personnel landmines in Serbia and Montenegro and *(b)* the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance for its work in Balkan countries in this financial year; what further UK funding is proposed; in what countries work is planned; and if he will make a statement. [2920]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In this financial year (2005–06) the UK has not made a contribution to the NATO South East Europe Initiative Trust Fund project for the destruction of anti-personnel landmines in Serbia and Montenegro. However, the Department for International Development is presently considering a UK contribution of £1 million to the International Trust Fund (ITF) for the current financial year. This will be used largely to fund mine action in Albania, Azerbaijan and Bosnia, but includes a sum, of approximately £350,000, which the ITF may use in any of the countries eligible for receiving funds through the Trust Fund.

Luis Posada

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the US authorities concerning the case of Luis Posada, wanted for extradition in connection with alleged terrorism. [2685]

Ian Pearson: The question of extradition of Luis Posada is a matter for the authorities in the US and for any country which may request his extradition.

Pakistan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to the Government of Pakistan concerning the murder of Pastor Shamoun Babar and Daniel Emanuel in April; [1058]

(2) if he will urge the Pakistani Government to take steps to increase protection for religious minorities in Pakistan; [1059]

(3) what representations he has made to the Government of Pakistan concerning the attack on the Apostolic Church, Khahamba near Lahore, on 27 March; [1060]

(4) what reports he has received concerning the effect on the Christian community in Pakistan of the recent attacks by Islamic extremists on Christian worshippers and buildings. [1363]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise our human rights concerns with the Government of Pakistan, including over the experiences of religious minorities. We judge that collective action through the EU is the most effective way of voicing our concerns and we carry out regular EU démarches, as well as bilateral lobbying. The next EU démarche is likely again to encourage the Government of Pakistan to take steps to address the persecution of minorities.

Although we are aware of these deplorable incidents, we have not made specific representations to the Government of Pakistan concerning the killing of Pastor Shamoun Babar and Daniel Emmanuel, nor on the attack on the Apostolic Church in Khahamba. We have not so far received any reports concerning the effect recent attacks on Christian worshippers and buildings have had on Pakistan's Christian community.

People Trafficking

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking in partnership with his EU colleagues to control the trafficking of human beings into the UK. [3860]

Dr. Howells: The UK is committed to doing all it can to combat human trafficking, which is a crime that involves many source and transit countries.

Human trafficking will continue to form a key element in our Justice and Home Affairs agenda, particularly during our Presidency of the EU. We are working closely with our EU partners to ensure that The Hague Programme commitment for the Commission and Council to draw up an action plan on trafficking is met in 2005. In 2004 we launched an European Community-funded twinning project with the Netherlands to strengthen the capacity of the Czech Republic to combat trafficking into, within and out of the country. The 2002 EU Framework Decision on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings committed EU member states to establish criminal offences for trafficking.

Samir Kassir

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the assassination of Samir Kassir in the Lebanon; what his policy is on the extension of the UN inquiry into the death of Rafic Hariri to the case of Mr. Kassir; what assistance the United Kingdom is giving to the inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [2738]

Dr. Howells: This Government condemns the assassination of Samir Kassir and the injuries caused to a passer by. We also condemn the six bombs that have exploded in and around Beirut since mid-March killing four people and injuring over 50. These terrorist attacks are cowardly and cynical attempts to de-stabilise Lebanon. The Lebanese people have repeatedly demonstrated their support for genuine and peaceful democracy. The UK is committed to helping the people of Lebanon achieve this and welcomes the on-going elections.

The UK strongly supports the work of the Independent International Independent Investigation Commission. The UK co-sponsored United Nations Security Council Resolution 1595 mandating the Investigation Commission and has nominated a British police officer as a member of the Investigation Commission. The UK judges that it is important for the Commission to remain focused on the murder of Rafic Hariri, rather than spreading its resources more thinly. We look forward to an impartial and effective investigation by the Lebanese police and security forces of the death of Samir Kassir.

Sudan

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will press for the United Nations to categorise the situation in Darfur as genocide; and if he will make a statement. [2383]

Ian Pearson: The UK strongly pressed for the International Commission of Inquiry (ICI) report into the situation in Darfur. The ICI found that serious violations of human rights had taken place in Darfur. and that, while there was no evidence to suggest that the Government of Sudan had pursued a policy of genocide, a "competent court" would have to decide if certain individuals had done so. To this end, we sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1593, referring the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court—the first such referral by the Security Council. We continue to make clear to the Government of Sudan and the rebels that those responsible must answer for the crimes committed there.

We understand that following further investigation of the evidence by the ICC, the Prosecutor has decided that there is sufficient scope within his jurisdiction to mount a formal investigation. He has reached this decision independently, and we will await the outcome of the investigation.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will call for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the situation in Darfur. [2387]

Ian Pearson: There are currently no plans to hold an emergency UN Security Council meeting on Darfur. The UN Security Council follows the situation in Sudan very closely, and continues to receive monthly reports from the Secretary-General on Darfur. Most recently the Security Council discussed Darfur on 2 June 2005 when the UN Secretary-General briefed the Council on his visit to Sudan, including Darfur, between 27–29 May 2005. The Security Council also discussed the African Union (AU) mission following the 26 May 2005 donors' conference in Addis Ababa, which the Secretary-General co-chaired. The Security Council remains fully engaged on Darfur, and is monitoring the implementation of the recent resolutions on Sudan closely.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last raised the issue of Darfur with the US Secretary of State. [2397]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice last discussed Darfur, and in particular the referral of Darfur to the International Criminal Court, in late March, prior to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1593.

Both at ministerial and official level we are in regular contact with the US, and other international partners, on the issue of Darfur, and Sudan as a whole, and are closely co-ordinating our response to the crises.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Sudan about the continuing violence in the Kalua Camp, Nyala, Darfur. [2569]

Ian Pearson: Following an outbreak of violent clashes between police and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kalma IDP camp on 20 May, our ambassador in Khartoum visited the camp on 22 May, and raised the incident with the Government of Sudan, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations.

We remain greatly concerned about the continuing high tensions in the camp. The African Union (AU) are patrolling the camp in an effort to restore confidence between the IDPs and the Government of Sudan police. They are also seized of the need to provide a more permanent presence. We are discussing this with the AU, and are working to support them in expanding their mission in Darfur to over 7,000 personnel, including over 1,500 Civilian Police officers.

We regularly press the Government of Sudan on the need for it to provide security for its citizens, respect the human rights of the IDPs in the camps, and ensure the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. We will continue to do so.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the continuing violence in Eastern Sudan. [2571]

Ian Pearson: We remain greatly concerned about the continuing high tensions in eastern Sudan, and thoroughly condemn the recent kidnapping of Government of Sudan officials by rebel movements. We have made clear to the Eastern Front that they should release the hostages immediately.

We are pressing all sides to show restraint and negotiate a political settlement, within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We understand that the Government of Sudan are currently in talks with the Northern Democratic Alliance, with a view to bringing them into the political process. To this end, the UK is also looking to fund informal consultations between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan concerning the arrests of representatives of Médecins Sans Frontiers in Khartoum. [2595]

Ian Pearson: The UK national Director of Médecins Sans Frontiers-Holland (MSF-H) and their Nyala co-ordinator were arrested on 30 May in Sudan and charged with spreading false information, causing social unrest, and spying. This followed MSF-H's publication in March of a report on rape in Darfur. The MSF-H representatives are currently released on bail.

Our embassy had first raised our concerns about hostile media reporting on MSF-H with the Government of Sudan on 29 May. Following the arrests, our Chargé d'affaires met the Government of Sudan on 30 May and 6 June, and maintained regular contact with MSF-H, the Government of Sudan and international partners in between. We also joined the EU and US in making representations to the Government on 1 June. A senior Foreign Office official also raised our concerns with the Sudanese ambassador in London on 1 June. We have continued to make clear to the Government of Sudan that such harassment of NGOs is wholly unacceptable and must stop. We will remain in close contact with MSF-H and international partners on this case.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his Department's policy towards negotiations in the UN on the introduction of sanctions in connection with the situation in Darfur. [2597]

Ian Pearson: The Government welcomes the recent negotiations in New York that resulted in the Security Council agreeing Security Council resolution 1591 (2005). This strengthened the arms embargo against Sudan and introduced a targeted assets freeze and travel ban against individuals who impede the peace process, constitute a threat to stability in the Darfur region, commit violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law or other atrocities, violate the arms embargo or are responsible for offensive military overflights in and over the Darfur region.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made regarding reports of rape and sexual violence against women in Darfur. [2598]

Ian Pearson: We deplore the ongoing use of rape and sexual violence in Darfur. Such attacks are abhorrent and totally unacceptable. We have made, and continue to make clear to the Government of Sudan that more must be done to provide security for the citizens of Darfur, and that perpetrators of such crimes must be brought to justice. Tackling rape and gender based violence has been a key point at the regular sub-Joint Implementation Mechanism meetings between the international community and the Government of Sudan, which is chaired by the UN. At the most recent meeting on 29 May, the international community pressed the Government of Sudan on the need to ensure that those completing medical reports of rape were not themselves considered to be carrying out criminal acts, such as falsifying information or not following 'due process' in obtaining a police report first, and on better judicial processing of rape cases.

The UK has contributed over £66 million towards the Darfur crisis since September 2003, including £500,000 towards the International Rescue Committee's Darfur programme, and £2.1 million towards Médecins Sans Frontières' health programme. These both contain components to tackle such gender-based violence. We are also providing more than £20 million towards the African Union (AU) mission to improve security in Darfur. The AU is increasingly co-ordinating its patrols to provide protection for women when they leave Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. Where this is happening the number of reported rapes have decreased significantly, and we are encouraging the AU to increase this practice.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with member states of the African Union regarding the treatment of Médecins Sans Frontières officials in Darfur. [2625]

Ian Pearson: We have not held wider discussions with AU member states, except for Sudan which is directly responsible for this appalling behaviour. Following the arrests, our chargé d'affaires met the Government of Sudan on 30 May and 6 June, and maintained regular contact with MSF-H, the Government of Sudan and

international partners in between. We joined the EU and US in making representations to the Government on 1 June. A senior Foreign Office official raised our concerns with the Sudanese ambassador in London on 1 June. We have consistently made clear that such mistreatment is wholly unacceptable and that harassment of NGOs must stop. We continue to engage in dialogue with the African Union on the operating conditions for all humanitarian organisations in Sudan.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Sudan regarding the arrest of Médecins Sans Frontières officials in Darfur. [2626]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave today to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew), (UIN 2595), *Official Report*, 13 June 2005, col. 141W.

Uganda

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the capacity of Uganda to host the 2007 meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government; and if he will make a statement. [2754]

Ian Pearson: The Commonwealth Secretariat, not the United Kingdom, will assess whether Uganda has the capacity to host the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether entry visas were issued to opposition politicians to attend the London debate on constitutional amendment in Uganda. [2755]

Dr. Howells: I regret that I cannot provide this information as it is not our practice to disclose details of individual entry clearance cases in a public forum.

Uzbekistan

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the government of Uzbekistan regarding the handling of protests in Eastern Andijan on 13 May 2005; [2628]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the government of Uzbekistan regarding respecting human rights. [2629]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I am extremely disturbed by the reports of Uzbek troops firing on demonstrators in Andizhan (Andijan). When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary first heard these reports he urged the Uzbek authorities to allow an independent, international investigation.

We have asked our Ambassador to Tashkent, Mr. David Moran, to convey these messages to senior figures in the Uzbek Government. We also asked Mr. Moran to urge the authorities for unrestricted access to Andizhan for the international community, including organisations like the UN High Commission for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The UK's proactive stance was instrumental in the authorities' decision to organise a visit to the region on 18 May 2005 by diplomats, members of international organisations and the world's media. Although highly orchestrated by the Uzbek authorities, this visit was an important first step towards securing the necessary transparency into the events of 13–14 May 2005 in Andizhan (Andijan).

Mr. Moran is also working to ensure that the root causes of discontent are addressed through urgent economic and political reform, as he made clear to Deputy Foreign Minister Nematov on 15 May 2005.

In the aftermath of Andizhan (Andijan), we are concerned by reports of the arrest and harassment of eyewitnesses, independent journalists and human rights activists. Mr. Moran conveyed this point in a meeting between EU ambassadors and Foreign Minister Ganiev on 1 June 2005. On 25 May 2005 our embassy delivered a note to the Uzbek authorities, registering our concern at the arrest of Saidjahon Zainabuddinov, the head of the 'appeal' human rights NGO.

We will continue to insist, with our partners in the UN, EU, OSCE and NATO, that the Uzbek Government accept an independent investigation. We shall continue to urge the Uzbek Government to respect their wider international commitments to democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Western Sahara

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Saharawi people and their representatives following the mass demonstrations of students in El Ayoun. [2593]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of reports of demonstrations in the Western Sahara and continue to monitor the situation. UK officials hold regular discussions with the parties to the Western Sahara dispute. These focus on ensuring that the UN process leads to a fair and lasting solution to this dispute that provides the people of the Western Sahara with an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Moroccan authorities concerning media access to El Ayoun to cover the recent demonstrations of Saharawi students there. [2594]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of recent reports alleging that some journalists were denied access to Laayoune (El Ayoun) during the recent Saharawi demonstrations and will continue to monitor the situation. There are currently no plans to discuss media access to Laayoune (El Ayoun) with the Moroccan Government.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Arab Maghreb Union to urge them to discuss the Western Sahara issue. [3124]

Dr. Howells: The Arab Maghreb Union recently postponed the summit planned for May 2005. We have no plans to raise the Western Sahara dispute with the Arab Maghreb Union.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Moroccan authorities regarding their recent activities in Western Sahara and reports of major human rights abuses. [3397]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of reports of recent clashes between pro-Saharawi demonstrators and the Moroccan authorities in Western Sahara and continue to monitor the situation. We currently have no plans to discuss the situation with the Moroccan Government.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent activities of the Moroccan authorities in Western Sahara and whether there have been human rights abuses; what his policy is on how the UN should respond; what assessment he has made of whether the role of the UN's mission to Western Sahara should change; what steps he has taken in response to the activities of the Moroccan authorities; and if he will make a statement. [3398]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of reports of recent clashes between pro-Saharawi demonstrators and the Moroccan authorities in Western Sahara and continue to monitor the situation. The Government believe UN efforts to find a solution to the dispute should be maintained and will continue to seek a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution to the Western Sahara dispute that provides the people of the Western Sahara with an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Zimbabwean Government about the bulldozing of squatter camps. [3763]

Ian Pearson: The British ambassador in Harare protested about the brutal crackdown with Vice President Joyce Mujuru and, separately, Didymus Mutasa, Minister of State for National Security, on 2 and 3 June respectively.

The European Union also issued a statement on 8 June condemning the actions of the authorities and calling on the government of Zimbabwe to cease the callous and arbitrary destruction of property and livelihoods of ordinary Zimbabweans. Once again Mugabe has demonstrated a total lack of respect for the human rights of individuals and for the security and prosperity of the country. The displacement has created a serious internal refugee problem compounding the existing humanitarian crisis.

Department for International Development funds are being used in provision of immediate assistance to affected households who do not have the capacity to absorb the shock themselves (particularly children and the chronically ill).

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what changes have been made to the list of persons banned from travel to the EU from Zimbabwe since the recent elections and changes in the composition of the Government in that country; and if he will make a statement; [3767]

(2) if he will make a statement on EU sanctions against Zimbabwe following the recent election in that country. [3768]

Ian Pearson: We believe that the European Union's current policy towards Zimbabwe, including sanctions against the Mugabe regime, is justified by that regime's failure to address EU concerns, including the abuse of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The flawed elections and the current brutal crackdown on thousands of ordinary Zimbabweans underline the need to maintain pressure on the Government of Zimbabwe.

We are currently working with our partners to increase the number of those targeted by the EU travel ban and assets freeze list.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the research conducted for his Department in 2002 by Stephen Scott on anti social behaviour. [2215]

Hazel Blears: Data and results from the parenting programme run by Dr Stephen Scott as part of the On Track programme in Southwark have been fed into a series of regional and national On Track evaluation reports which have been published by the Home Office. There were no intentions or plans to publish individual reports from the On Track evaluation.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti social behaviour orders were issued in Pembrokeshire in each year between 1998 and 2004. [2587]

Hazel Blears: The available information is given in the table.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office

	Number
1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[1]	—
1 January 2004 to 31 December 2000	—
2001	—
2002	—
2003	1
1 January 2004 to 30 September 2004	6
Total	7

[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been made with Leeds residents since October 2003. [1717]

Hazel Blears: The number of acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) made is not known as this information is not collected centrally.

A recent survey carried out by the Home Office and sent to all crime and disorder reduction partnerships estimated that 5,383 ABCs were made between October 2003 and September 2004.

Asylum and Immigration

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to appoint the independent monitor of accommodation centres for asylum seekers. [664]

Mr. McNulty: We intend to appoint the monitor in advance of the opening of the first centre, to enable him or her to give consideration to the working methods and processes in the centres, but not so far in advance that there is nothing for him or her to do.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria will be used in deciding which migrants applying for refugee status have that status determined at the proposed accommodation centre for asylum seekers at Bicester. [667]

Mr. McNulty: Only destitute asylum seekers who would otherwise be supported in dispersal accommodation will be supported in the accommodation centre; more detailed criteria will be established nearer to, but in advance of, the opening date, and will reflect the mix of the asylum intake at that time.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's employees were engaged *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time on asylum removals in each of the last five years. [2842]

Mr. McNulty: The number of employees engaged on the removal of failed asylum seekers is not disaggregated from the overall number of employees within the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) and therefore not readily available. Any attempt to calculate the number of employees involved in the removal of failed asylum seekers in each of the last five years would need to take into account a large number of factors and this could be done only at disproportionate cost. However the average number of employees in the UK Immigration Service alone during each of the past four years is as follows.

	Number
2001–02	4,725
2002–03	5,742
2003–04	6,768
2004–05	7,239

There are no figures available for 2000–01.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of initial asylum decisions were successfully appealed by the applicant in each of the last five years. [2841]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the percentage of successful appeals on refusals of grants of asylum is not available. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on estimates of final asylum decisions is published annually. The next publication covering 2004 will be available in August 2005 on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time between initial decisions in asylum applications and the hearing of an appeal was in the last period for which figures are available. [2845]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the average time between initial decisions in asylum applications and the hearing of an appeal is not available. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case
records.

The Home Office and the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) set a jointly owned public service agreement target for 2003–04 that 60 per cent. of substantive asylum applications (excluding withdrawals and third country cases) received from one April 2003 should have a decision, up to and including final appeal at the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, within six months.

The Home Office and DCA exceeded this target with 64 per cent. of substantive applications received in the period April 2003 to March 2004 having had a final decision, up to and including appeals at the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, within six months.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals are published quarterly. The next publication covering the second quarter of 2005 will be available in August 2005 on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of asylum applications received an initial decision within *(a)* one month, *(b)* two months and *(c)* three months of application in the last period for which figures are available. [2847]

Mr. McNulty: 21 per cent. of applications (excluding withdrawals and third country cases) received in October to December 2004 had initial decisions reached and served within one month (1), 77 per cent. within two months (1) and 83 per cent. within three months (1).

Information on the timeliness of asylum cases is published in the quarterly asylum statistics on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to increase the rate of removal of failed asylum seekers; and if he will make a statement. [2848]

Mr. McNulty: In February 2005 the Government announced a five-year strategy aimed at increasing the rate of removals of those who have no basis of stay in the United Kingdom. To do this we will:

expand detention capability and the fast-tracking of asylum claims;

manage asylum seekers more closely through various means including the use of electronic monitoring;

place immigration at the heart of our relationship with asylum source countries to secure more returns;

root out abuse of our legal system with a clampdown on unscrupulous advisers;

grant refugees temporary leave initially, while monitoring and reviewing the situation in their home countries;

encourage more voluntary returns.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants have had their asylum application refused but have not been removed because of successful Human Rights Act 1998 applications in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [2970]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not available. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methods are used by his Department to assess the age of young asylum seekers. [2972]

Mr. McNulty: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) assesses the age of young asylum seekers using available credible documentary evidence. Failing this IND will assess age based on the claimant's appearance and demeanour, as well as other factors relevant such as medical evidence. IND will usually accept a full Social Service Department age assessments as proof of age.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to stop illegal immigration into the UK. [2935]

Mr. McNulty: We have already made significant improvements to border controls by expanding our juxtaposed controls, deploying new detection technology and increasing our airline liaison network overseas. This has had a significant impact both on deterring illegal immigration and reducing asylum intake.

We are also taking new measures to further improve border controls, including a further expansion of the airline liaison network, a more comprehensive intelligence debriefing system, and new mobile search teams. All visa applicants will be fingerprinted by 2008, and pre-boarding checks of all persons entering and leaving the UK will be introduced by 2010.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were received for indefinite leave to remain in the UK in each year from 1997. [514]

Mr. McNulty: Data on applications for indefinite leave to remain is only available from March 2002. The total number of applications per financial year since April 2002 is as follows:

April to March	*ILR applications*
2002–03	106,880
2003–04	111,640
2004–05	92,100

This data has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Biometric Passports

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of recording, matching and storing face, fingerprint and iris biometric information for biometric passports; and what methodology he used in making this estimate. [1783]

Mr. McNulty: The UK Passport service is planning to commence the introduction of the new design passport with a single facial biometric in this financial year in line with international standards. The average unit costs for first generation biometric passports with a facial biometric chip were published in the UK Passport Service Corporate and Business Plans 2005–2010. The average unit cost per passport in 2006–07 is estimated to be £67.93. The Regulatory Impact Assessment published along side the Identity Cards Bill on 25 May 2005 contains the latest cost estimates for the next generation of biometric passports and ID Cards, incorporating iris and fingerprints as well as the facial biometric. The current best estimate for the total average annual running costs for issuing second generation biometric passports and ID Cards to UK nationals from 2008, is estimated at £584 million. Around 70 per cent. of these costs would be incurred in issuing second generation biometric passports alone. The costs were calculated in accordance with Government accounting guidelines and Office of Government Commerce best practice.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to merge the Cambridgeshire Constabulary with another force; and if he will make a statement. [2777]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 9 June 2005]*: At the Association of Chief Police Officers' conference on 19 May, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made it clear that he did not believe that the current structure of 43 forces was the most efficient and effective arrangement for organising policing in England and Wales. He also made clear that he had no blueprint for force amalgamations, but that the initiative for such amalgamations should ideally be driven locally. To inform the way forward, my right hon. Friend has commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to examine the issue of force structures. As well as looking at the case for structural changes, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will also be examining the case for greater collaboration and co-operation between forces.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government has completed legally-binding agreements for the supply of goods and services in respect of *(a)* identity cards and *(b)* the National Identity Register. [2779]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 June 2005]*: The Government has not completed any legally binding agreements for the supply of goods and services in respect of either the Identity Cards themselves or the National Identity Register. Clause 42 of the Identity Cards Bill authorises the expenses of the Secretary of State in connection with the carrying out of his functions under this Act, to be paid out of money provided by Parliament. Consequently the Secretary of State cannot enter into such legally binding agreements until the Bill has completed the parliamentary process and has received Royal Assent.

Children (School Hours Arrests)

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many excluded children were arrested during school hours in each of the last five years; [2216]

(2) how many children subject to antisocial behaviour orders had been permanently excluded from school. [2217]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not available centrally. Information on arrests collected centrally is based on persons arrested for "notifiable" offences by age, sex and ethnicity and does not identify the circumstances of individuals arrested.

Information on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) collected and collated by the Home Office for statistical purposes identifies the age and sex of ASBO recipients but does not identify their personal circumstances.

Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 28 February from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford regarding Mrs. L. Broderick and the petition that was enclosed. [1052]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 26 May 2005]:* There is no record of the hon. Member's letter having been received in the Home Office. He has now sent a copy, and I will respond shortly. The petition was received and has been noted.

Court Orders

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* parenting contracts, *(b)* parenting orders, *(c)* acceptable behaviour contracts and *(d)* antisocial behaviour orders were issued in each local authority area in County Durham in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2004. [1591]

Hazel Blears: The Youth Justice Board collects the numbers of parenting contracts, parenting orders and other voluntary parenting interventions by youth offending team ("YOT") area rather than local authority area. The Durham YOT area covers County Durham.

The statutory powers in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 for YOTs to enter into parenting contracts commenced on 27 February 2004.18 parenting contracts were entered into in the Durham YOT area between 1 April and 31 December 2004. YOTs can intervene with parents on a voluntary basis without a parenting contract. There were 20 such interventions in the area in 2003 and 30 in 2004.

The number of parenting orders in the Durham YOT area is shown in Table one. These all relate to crime or antisocial behaviour by the child. No parenting orders were made in the area during 2003 and 2004 in respect of offences under the Education Act 1996 or on application by the education authority under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003.

The number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts ("ABCs") made in the Wessex area is not known as this information is not collected centrally.

A recent survey carried out by the Home Office and sent to all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships estimated that 5383 ABCs were made between October 2003 and September 2004.

The Home Office collects the number of antisocial behaviour orders by local authority area and the latest available information is provided in Table two.

Table 1: Parenting orders in Durham YOT area

	Number
2003	4
2004	22

Table 2: The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued, as reported to the Home Office, by all courts and where restrictions are imposed within local authority areas in Durham, by age and by period up to 30 September 2004

	2003			*1 January to 30 September 2004*		
Area	*Age 10–17*	*Age 18+*	*Total all ages*	*Age 10–17*	*Age 18+*	*Total all ages*
County Durham	6	6	12	6	10	16
of which:						
Chester-le-Street district council	—	—	—	—	3	3
Derwentside district council	1	4	5	1	6	7
Durham city council	2	1	3	3	—	3
Easington district council	3	1	4	2	—	2
Sedgefield borough council	—	—	—	—	1	1
Teesdale district council	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wear Valley district council	—	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* parenting contracts, *(b)* parenting orders, *(c)* other voluntary parenting interventions, *(d)* acceptable behaviour contracts and *(e)* antisocial behaviour orders were issued in (i) each local authority area in Hampshire, (ii) Portsmouth and (iii) Southampton in (A) 2003 and (B) 2004. [1311]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* The Youth Justice Board collects the numbers of parenting contracts, parenting orders and other voluntary parenting interventions by youth offending team (YOT) area rather than local authority area. Wessex YOT includes Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. The number of parenting orders shown in Table 1 also includes orders made in respect of offences under the Education Act 1996 or, since commencement of the powers in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 on application by the education authority, which are described as "Educational".

The statutory powers in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 for YOTs to enter into parenting contracts commenced on 27 February 2004. No such contracts were entered into by YOTs in the Wessex YOT area.

The number of other voluntary parenting interventions made in the area is shown in table 2.The number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts ("ABCs") made is not known as this information is not collected centrally.

A recent survey carried out by the Home Office and sent to all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships estimated that 5,383 ABCs were made between October 2003 and September 2004.

The Home Office collects the number of antisocial behaviour orders by local authority area and the latest available information is provided in table 3.

Table 1: Parenting orders in Wessex YOT area

	2003	2004
YOTs	56	99
Educational	11	15
Total	67	114

Table 2: Other voluntary parenting interventions by YOT in Wessex area

	Number
2003	60
2004	177

Table 3: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued, as reported to the Home Office, by all courts and where restrictions are imposed, within local authority areas, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, by age and by period up to 30 September 2004

	2003				1 January 2004 to 30 September 2004		
	Age						
Area	10–17	18+	Not known	Total all ages	10–17	18+	Total all ages
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	15	11	3	29	25	22	47
Of which:							
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
Fareham Borough Council	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gosport Borough Council	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Havant Borough Council	5	1	—	6	2	2	4
Isle of Wight Council	1	—	3	4	3	1	4
New Forest District Council	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Portsmouth City Council	2	10	—	12	8	9	17
Rushmoor Borough Council	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
Southampton Council	5	—	—	5	6	4	10
Test Valley Borough Council	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Winchester City Council	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

Crime (Rural Areas)

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on measures to tackle *(a)* crime and *(b)* the fear of crime in rural areas. [1375]

Hazel Blears: Effective and responsive policing at neighbourhood level as well as robust partnership working are both essential parts of our strategy to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour and to sustain the confidence and trust of the public in all parts of the country.

In accordance with this, we are committed to working with the police and other partners at national and local level so that, by 2008 every area in England and Wales, rural as well as urban, will benefit from visible and responsive neighbourhood policing teams. The dedicated teams will be led by police officers and involve special constables, community support officers, volunteers and neighbourhood wardens among others.

In addition, the Rural Policing Fund was introduced part way through 2000–01, when £15 million was made available to enhance the policing service in rural areas at no cost to the metropolitan forces. The fund is currently £30 million per annum benefiting 31 forces. This fund enables rural forces to focus on local crime hot-spots and provide a physical presence to deter criminals and troublemakers.

In terms of fear of crime, whilst it is statistically lower in rural areas, the impact of crime can be greater in small communities, particularly among older people. Comparative statistics between older residents still however produce lower fear of crime rates in rural areas than urban. Work to reduce further the fear of crime is a key component of the Home Office's public service agreement which looks to increase confidence in the Criminal Justice System and reduce antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime.

Crime and Policing (Hammersmith and Fulham)

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what average length of time a police officer in Hammersmith and Fulham was occupied following an arrest before resuming their patrol in the last period for which figures are available. [849]

Hazel Blears: The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis is responsible for the day to day operational management of the force. I will ensure that he receives a copy of the question and replies directly to the hon. Gentleman's concerns.

Criminal Justice Act

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanisms he plans to monitor the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [1380]

Fiona Mactaggart: Yes. The regularly published statistics on sentencing, probation and prison will be a source of monitoring information on how the new sentencing framework contained in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is used.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what restrictions will be placed on the number of additional conditions that the courts can place on community orders under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [1382]

Fiona Mactaggart: The community order introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 provides sentencers with a new flexible disposal that can be tailored. A court making a community order may impose one or more of 12 statutory requirements, but the Act requires that these must be the most suitable for the offender; that multiple requirements be compatible with each other, and that the restrictions they impose on the offender's liberty must be commensurate with the seriousness of the offence.

Death Certification

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Department has to change arrangements relating to coroners and death certification. [2854]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

The Government is committed to reforming the arrangements relating to coroners and death certification and I shall be looking at the best way of taking this forward, building on the work undertaken by the Home Office and taking into account the Reports of the Fundamental Review of the Coroner Service and the Shipman Inquiry.

Drugs (Policy Unit Report)

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to implement the recommendations of the policy unit's report on drugs; and if he will publish the report. [2396]

Paul Goggins: There are no plans to publish the confidential policy advice contained in the strategy unit report on drugs. The Government have a comprehensive and balanced drug strategy which we launched in 1998 and updated in 2002. It sets out the range of policies and interventions to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs by 2008. We have achieved a great deal across the strategy. Class A drug use among young people is stable. Where there was once virtually no drug treatment, 154,000 people are now being helped and waiting times are at their lowest ever—down 75 per cent. since December 2001. Where previously little attempt was made to break the link between drugs and crime, there is now the Drug Interventions Programme doing just that. Crime is falling, and falling faster in areas operating the programme, with over 1,950 drug-misusing offenders entering treatment in April 2005—the highest number since the programme began. And where in the past communities felt helpless against the problems of drugs there is now a coordinated approach backed by powers such as the ability to close crack houses quickly and seal them for up to six months.

Drunk and Disorderly Convictions

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions were made for the offence of being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales in each year between 1984 and 2004. [2588]

Hazel Blears: The number of offenders convicted of being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales 1984 to 2003 is contained in the table.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

Number of offenders found guilty of the offence of being drunk and disorderly—England and Wales 1984 to 2003[1]

Offence: Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour *Statute: Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91*	*Found guilty*
1984	39,965
1985	37,785
1986	31,135
1987	35,557
1988	38,514
1989	36,874
1990	32,276
1991	24,970
1992	20,290
1993	16,170
1994	17,102
1995	16,922
1996	21,218
1997	24,940
1998	26,391
1999	24,872
2000	23,899
2001	23,252
2002	24,136
2003	25,165

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

EU Legislation

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what EU legislation was implemented by *(a)* the Data Protection Act 1998, *(b)* the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, *(c)* the Disability Discrimination (Providers of Services) (Adjustments from 1999 of Premises) Regulations 2001, *(d)* the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and *(e)* the Money Laundering Regulations 2003. [1707]

Hazel Blears: The Data Protection Act 1988 implements the 1995 European Data Protection Directive (Directive 95/46/EC).The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 does not implement any specific EU legislation. The Disability Discrimination (Providers of Services)(Adjustment of Premises) Regulations 2001, were introduced to implement provisions of domestic legislation under the Disability Discrimination Act, and not to meet any EU requirements. The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (Business in the Regulated Sector and Supervisory Authorities Order 2003 No. 3074) (SI 3074/2004), took into account the 2nd EC Money Laundering

Directive (Directive 2001/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/308/EEC on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering). The Money Laundering Regulations 2003 completed the implementation in the UK of the 2nd EC Money Laundering Directive (Directive 2001/97/EC).

Gun Crime (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gun-related crimes there were in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [2499]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not available centrally because statistics on offences involving firearms are only collected at police force area level.

Identity Cards

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the powers of the National Identity Cards Scheme Commissioner. [4140]

Mr. McNulty: The National Identity Scheme Commissioner's powers are set out in clause 24 of the Identity Cards Bill. The Commissioner will be responsible for overseeing the operation of the Act and any subordinate legislation. The Commissioner will also oversee the arrangements put in place for the purposes of fulfilling functions granted to the Secretary of State or designated documents authorities under the Act and the arrangements made by those people authorised to receive information from the register (for example how the information is used, what it is used for, how is it recorded), except in the cases which would fall within the jurisdiction of the Intelligence Services Commissioner as set out in clause 26. The Commissioner will also be able to oversee the uses to which identity cards are being put.

The Commissioner will report to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable after the end of each calendar year about the carrying out of the Commissioner's functions. The Commissioner may also at any other time make such report to the Secretary of State as he thinks fit. The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a copy of every report made to him by the Commissioner. This is set out in clause 25 of the Identity Cards Bill.

There is nothing in the Bill to constrain the National Identity Scheme Commissioner from working with any other Commissioner (for example the Information Commissioner or the Commission for Racial Equality) in order to oversee the National Identity Cards Scheme.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of providing online verification to validate identity cards and other identity inquiries from user organisations; and what methodology was used to calculate the cost. [1784]

Mr. McNulty: The regulatory impact assessment published along side the Identity Cards Bill on 25 May 2005 contains the latest cost estimates. The current best estimate for the total average annual running costs for issuing passports and ID cards to UK nationals is estimated at £584 million. The cost of providing on-line verification of ID cards is included within this figure, however the costs have not been disaggregated. The costs were calculated in accordance with Government accounting guidelines and Office of Government Commerce best practice.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the potential impact the introduction of the identity card scheme may have on civil liberties; and what measures he is taking to protect confidential information. [2402]

Mr. McNulty: The ID card scheme is being designed to help support civil liberty and human rights by fostering a more inclusive society and allowing people to feel part of the community by easily demonstrating their identity and entitlement to reside in the UK, whatever their heritage. There will be very strong controls in place, including full auditing of all on-line checks to deter abuse of the scheme and ensure that any complaints can be fully investigated. The Register will be designed in such a way to ensure that data is stored in a highly secure manner. In addition, the design of the scheme will ensure compliance with legislation such as, among others, the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 & 2005, the Race Relations Act 1976 & 2004 and the Gender Recognition Act 2004. The Government published their response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights interim report on 8 February 2005 which explains in detail why the scheme is in compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights said in a report published on 8 June 2005,

The issuing of some form of identifying document to all residents does not seem to me to be objectionable in principle, nor does the right to private life guaranteed by the Article eight of the Convention preclude it. I carry an identity card myself and find it more useful than annoying.

The information which may be recorded on the National Identity Register is strictly limited by Schedule one of the Identity Cards Bill, and only Parliament would be able to change the information to be held. Unauthorised disclosure or modification of information held on the Register is subject to a criminal offence under clauses 29 & 31 of the Bill. The vast majority of checks on the Register will be made with the consent of the individual under clause 14 of the Identity Cards Bill. There are provisions for accrediting authorised users of the verification service. Even with an individual's consent, this clause only allows a limited amount of information from the Register, for example name, address, date of birth, residential status and status of the card, to be verified. Compulsion to carry the card is strictly prohibited in the Bill and clause 18 precludes any organisation from requiring the production of an ID card as sole proof of identity before the move to compulsion (so called compulsion by the 'back door'). Clause 15 only allows regulations to be made establishing a requirement to make use of the ID cards scheme a condition of provision of public services which have to be provided free of charge or social security payments should the scheme become compulsory. For all types of public services identity checks, rules need to be approved by Parliament on a case by case basis.

Circumstances where information can be provided without consent are strictly regulated, as outlined in Clauses 19–23 of the Bill. Organisations which can be provided with information are listed on the face of the Bill and any changes will require Parliament's approval. There will be independent oversight of the ID cards scheme—including how the scheme is used—by the National Identity Scheme Commissioner set up by the Bill and by existing Commissioners such as the Information Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which external consultants his Department received advice on the biometric technology to be used for the proposed identity cards. [2698]

Mr. McNulty: Final decisions on the biometric technology which may be used for the proposed identity cards scheme have yet to be taken. Biometrics technology is advancing all the time and the Identity Cards Programme team are taking advice from a number of organisations who have been developing knowledge in the field. These include the United Kingdom Passport Service (UKPS), Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), Communications-Electronic Security Group (CESG), Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) and the National Physical Laboratory. Additionally, further advice has been received from biometric technology advisors at San Jose University and PA Consulting Group.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of using DNA identifiers in the proposed identity cards; and if he will make a statement. [3175]

Mr. McNulty: The Identity Cards Scheme is not proposing to use DNA as one of the biometric identifiers. Clause 43 of the Identity Cards Bill defines a biometric as data about a person's external characteristics, eg facial image, iris pattern or fingerprints. DNA is not included in the list of information at schedule one of the Identity Cards Bill that may be held on the National Identity Register and there is no power under clause five of the Bill (applications relating to entries in the register) for the Secretary of State to require a person to provide a DNA sample.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the classes of *(a)* public officials and *(b)* others who will have sufficient access to the National Identity Register under the provisions of the Identity Cards Bill to be able to retrieve an individual's record on the basis of a fingerprint or an iris scan. [2781]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* Information held on the Register will be used by public and private sector organisations with the consent of the individual for verification purposes. Clause 14 of the Identity Cards Bill limits the information that could be provided with consent, and under these provisions the whole of an individual's record could not be obtained.

An accreditation scheme will be established, so that only those private sector organisations that have been approved will be able to make checks on the National Identity Register on the validity of cards or the registered details.

There are also the required identity checks provision in Clauses 15–19 of the Identity Cards Bill. Parliament will need to agree rules on a service by service basis including whether biometric information would form part of the identity check.

Clauses 19–23 of the Identity Cards Bill set out how the information may be provided without the consent of the individual. The organizations to whom this information may be provided are listed on the face of the Bill, namely: the Security and Intelligence Agencies, the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Police . Parliament must agree the rules under which such information would be provided without consent. The whole of a person's record may be provided to the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service, GCHQ and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency provided it is for the purpose of the carrying out of their functions. The Police, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Government Departments, including Northern Ireland Departments which have been specifically approved by Parliament, may only be provided with the whole of an individual's record for purposes connected with the prevention or detection of serious crime. Any other public authorities approved by Parliament to be provided with information without consent, cannot be provided with the whole of a person's record under the provisions of Clause 22 of the Bill.

The Bill ensures that provision of information without consent will be properly regulated and subject to independent oversight.

Specified staff working on the administration of the scheme would have access to individual records but only as required by their duties, and criminal sanctions will apply to any person who discloses information without lawful authority. The offence is punishable by up to two years imprisonment. This is set out in Clause 29 of the Bill.

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to conduct a computerised model for the national identity card system. [2636]

Mr. McNulty: Research is currently under way which will help to model various parts of the scheme, for example, take-up rates for registering with the scheme. Final decisions on the technical design of the scheme have yet to be taken. The scheme will be subject to rigorous testing but it is not possible to give specific detail of plans until the procurement phase is complete.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints under active investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission are *(a)* less than one-year-old, *(b)* one to three years old, *(c)* three to five years old and *(d)* over five years old; and if he will make a statement. [2891]

Hazel Blears: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the managements of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the Chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Inquests

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what age a coroner who was appointed in 1972 must retire. [3523]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply

There is no retirement age for coroners.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average time has been between deaths and inquests in the jurisdiction of the Teesside Coroner during the last 12 months; [3520]

(2) what the number of unfinished cases currently in the jurisdiction of the Teesside Coroner is; and how many are over six months old; [3521]

(3) what the backlog of cases requiring inquests in the jurisdiction of the Teesside Coroner is; and how many are over six months old; [3522]

(4) what the average time has been between deaths and inquests in the coroners' jurisdictions *(a)* in the north-east and *(b)* nationally during the last 12 months. [3524]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

I will write to my hon. and learned Friend as soon as the information is available.

Kamel Bourgass

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what investigations his Department has conducted into the role of Mr. Mohammed Meguerba in the alleged ricin case of Kamel Bourgass and his associates; and if he will make a statement. [2068]

Hazel Blears: The Home Office is not an investigative authority. It is the duty of the police to investigate criminal matters and all enquiries involving those persons alleged to have been involved in the case referred to would have been carried out by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Knife Crime

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether statistics are kept by police forces for the number of offences of violence against the person committed involving the use of knives. [1440]

Hazel Blears: Details of offences of violence against the person involving knives are generally collected by forces on the individual crime records. The ease with which statistics can be generated will vary depending on individual force computer systems.

Information on offences specifically involving knives is not collected centrally.

Looked-after Children

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of children subject to *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders and *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts were looked-after children. [2317]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not available centrally. Information on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) collected and collated by the Home Office for statistical purposes does not identify the personal circumstances of ASBO recipients. Information on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) is not collected centrally. ABCs are voluntary agreements with no statutory basis. They are therefore unsuitable for central data collection.

Mental Health

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the total number of people who are dangerous by virtue of severe personality disorder (DSPD) in England; and what her estimate is of the number of people who are DSPD in England but cannot be detained under sections 2, 3 or 4 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [234]

Fiona Mactaggart: The most recent estimates indicate that the number of people within the prison population in England and Wales who are likely to meet the Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) criteria is 2,300–2,500. This estimate is based on Prison Service data and on experience with referrals and admissions to the DSPD programme.

We do not have sufficiently robust information to provide a reliable estimate of the numbers of individuals within the community who would be likely to meet the criteria.

At present there also is insufficient information available to provide an indication of the number of people who are DSPD and who cannot be detained under sections two, three or four of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Estimates will be kept under review as further information from the DSPD programme becomes available.

Metropolitan Police

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding per head of population the Metropolitan Police Service received in each year since 1995 from *(a)* central funds and *(b)* precept; and if he will make a statement. [2890]

Hazel Blears: The information is set out in the table.

Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that distributes resources on the basis of relative policing need. The formula is currently being reviewed to ensure it remains up to date. Funding is not, and never has been, distributed on a per capita basis.

£

	Government grant funding[1] per head of population[2]	Precept[3] per head of population[2]
1995–96	209.48	20.72
1996–97	209.63	21.46
1997–98	211.79	24.26
1998–99	212.42	29.38
1999–2000	213.96	31.69
2000–01	227.70	34.56
2001–02	243.70	44.59
2002–03	261.46	49.04
2003–04	282.32	61.80
2004–05	286.29	70.95
2005–06[4]	300.33	75.95

[1] Government funding includes general grant (Home Office police grant, ODPM Revenue Support Grant, National Non Domestic Rates and SSA Reduction Grant). It also includes specific grants: Crime Fighting Fund, Basic Command Unit funding, community support officer funding (including, for 2004–05 and 2005–06, round one of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund), Airwave, DNA Expansion Programme, Counter Terrorism funding, Street Crime Initiative, Special Priority Payments and capital grants.
The Home Office also funds free travel for MPS officers and 75 per cent. of the cost of the London allowance for all qualifying officers. .These figures are not included within the totals.
[2] Source for resident population figures: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as used in the calculation of the police funding settlements.
[3] Source for precept information: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
[4] Estimates for 2005–06.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of Metropolitan Police officer abstractions was from each London borough for *(a)* counter-terrorism, *(b)* special operations and *(c)* public order event policing work in each of the last 12 months; what the average rate was for each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [2521]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Minicabs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks were committed by the drivers of unlicensed minicabs in each year since 1997. [2409]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mobile Telephone Thefts (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many thefts of mobile telephones there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. [2480]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Motoring Offences (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted for motoring offences in each of the last five years in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* each London borough. [2473]

Paul Goggins: The available information is contained in the table and gives the number of offenders found guilty for motoring offences by magistrates courts/ London borough, 1999 to 2003. Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

Number[1] of offenders found guilty of motoring offences[2] by police force area and magistrates courts/London borough 1999 to 2003

Magistrates courts/borough	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Inner London magistrates courts					
City of London Police					
Guildhall Justice Rooms	4,154	6,738	7,318	5,258	4,944
Metropolitan police					
Bow Street	1,136	743	641	759	953
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	4,416	3,214	3,322	3,438	4,003
Greenwich and Woolwich	4,137	3,148	3,487	4,698	5,152
Highbury Corner	2,712	1,841	1,812	1,917	2,364
Horseferry Road	1,891	1,506	1,389	1,775	1,710
Marylebone	5,259	4,312	5,877	7,302	6,127
South Western	1,994	2,434	3,196	3,222	3,536
Thames	3,185	2,542	2,015	2,233	2,902
West London	1,737	1,789	1,881	1,898	2,004
Inner London Juvenile Courts[3]	1	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Outer London boroughs					
Metropolitan police					
Barking and Dagenham	1,176	1,342	1,645	1,423	1,699
Barnet	3,077	3,488	2,900	2,897	3,086
Bexley	915	962	893	1,077	961
Brent	2,988	2,648	2,430	2,315	3,766
Bromley	1,392	1,260	1,192	1,546	1,387
Croydon	2,333	2,353	2,153	1,705	1,658
Ealing	2,421	1,921	1,548	2,202	2,296
Enfield	1,804	1,725	1,742	1,727	1,632
Haringey	1,851	1,629	1,899	2,510	3,170
Harrow	1,368	1,124	1,003	1,156	1,102
Havering	1,145	1,087	1,045	1,167	1,446
Hillingdon	2,128	2,314	2,135	2,753	2,683
Hounslow	2,111	2,037	2,069	1,454	507
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,031	1,335	1,595	1,465	957

Number[1] of offenders found guilty of motoring offences[2] by police force area and magistrates courts/London borough 1999 to 2003

Magistrates courts/borough	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Merton	1,149	1,419	1,378	1,312	1,674
Newham	2,059	1,835	1,771	1,704	1,924
Redbridge	1,402	1,580	1,397	1,429	1,581
Richmond upon Thames	1,058	1,015	1,022	1,066	1,138
Sutton	770	866	916	909	964
Waltham Forest	1,473	1,256	1,440	1,177	1,087
Total Metropolitan police	60,119	54,727	55,793	60,236	63,469
Total Greater London	64,273	61,465	63,111	65,494	68,413

n/a = not applicable.
[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes indictable and summary motoring offences.
[3] Cases included with adult courts from 2001.

National Identity Register

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on how the information stored in the National Identity Register will be used. [4132]

Mr. McNulty: The information that may be held on the National Identity Register is strictly limited by the Bill. This is listed in schedule one of the Bill and includes personal information such as name address date and place of birth. Only Parliament would be able to change the information which could be held by the scheme. The purposes for which the register is established and maintained are confined to the statutory purposes which are clearly set out in clause one of the Bill.

Information held on the register will be used by public and private sector organisations with the consent of the individual for verification purposes. Clause 14 of the Identity Cards Bill limits the information that could be provided with consent, and under these provisions the whole of an individual's record could not be obtained.

An accreditation scheme will be established, so that only those private sector organisations that have been approved will be able to make checks on the National Identity Register on the validity of cards or the registered details.

There are also the required identity checks provision in clauses 15–19 of the Identity Cards Bill. Parliament will need to agree rules on a service by service basis including whether biometric information would form part of the identity check.

Clauses 19–23 of the Identity Cards Bill set out the how information may be provided without the consent of the individual. The organisations to whom this information may be provided are listed on the face of the Bill, namely: the Security and Intelligence Agencies, the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the police. Parliament must agree the rules under which such information would be provided without consent. The whole of a person's record may be provided to the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service, GCHQ and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency provided it is for the purpose of the carrying out of their functions. The police, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Government Departments, including Northern Ireland Departments which have been specifically approved by Parliament, may only be provided with the whole of an individual's record for purposes connected with the prevention or detection of serious crime. Any other public authorities approved by Parliament to be provided with information without consent, may be provided with such information for purposes connected with the carrying out of any prescribed functions of that department, or of a Minister in charge of it. These public authorities cannot be provided with the whole of a person's record, as under the provisions of clause 22, they cannot be provided with information listed in paragraph nine, schedule one of the Bill.

The Bill ensures that provision of information without consent will be properly regulated and subject to independent oversight.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost will be for individuals who need to amend their details on the National Identity Register. [4138]

Mr. McNulty: The Identity Cards Bill provides powers to the Secretary of State to set fees in respect of functions that are carried out under this Act. This is outlined in clause 37 of the Bill. However no decisions have been taken on the fee structure and Parliament will have the final say on the regulations to impose fees, as set out in clause 37(4) of the Bill.

Nazi War Criminals

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the letter from the then Immigration Minister of 8 February to the hon. Member for Hendon, on how many alleged Nazi war criminals who may be living in the UK his Department holds personal information; if he will pass the information to the Metropolitan police anti-terrorism branch; whether the information held includes information on any of those individuals named in the list communicated to him by the hon. Member for Hendon; and if he will make a statement. [2718]

Mr. McNulty: Personal information held by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate about alleged Nazi war criminals who may be living in the United Kingdom is already available for inspection by the Metropolitan police in connection with their investigations. Since the passage of the War Crimes Act 1991, a large number of personal files have been examined by the police in connection with investigation of possible war crimes committed during the Second World War. I understand my right hon. Friend passed

a list of alleged Nazi war criminals to the Metropolitan police earlier this year. That list is currently under consideration by the Metropolitan police who are checking it against material already in the possession of their Crimes against Humanity Unit and liaising with other Government Departments including the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to establish the best way forward. The Metropolitan police will write to my hon. Friend to inform him of their conclusions once this process is complete.

Passports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ensure that people who have resided in Northern Ireland for a certain length of time, but were born in the Irish Republic, can obtain a British passport at the same cost as those who were born in Northern Ireland. [3026]

Mr. McNulty: The standard fee of £42.00 for adults, or £25.00 for children, is payable for all passports issued to British nationals who are resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the time of the application.

Police

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of best value legislation on the administrative burden faced by police forces. [1372]

Hazel Blears: Best Value legislation was introduced in 1999 by virtue of Section 1(1)*(d)* of the Local Government Act 1999. The legislation put a statutory responsibility upon police authorities to achieve continuous improvement through application of the Best Value approach, carrying out structured Best Value Reviews (BVRs) of all aspects of police service delivery. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has conducted a significant number of inspections of BVRs each year since the introduction of Best Value. All HMIC Inspection reports and recommendations to police forces and authorities have been published on the HMIC website. A report summarising the work carried out and identified good practice has been submitted to the Police Minister on an annual basis. To the best of HMIC's knowledge, there has not been a comprehensive evaluation of the overall impact of Best Value legislation within policing therefore it is difficult to fully quantify the direct benefits to the Police Service or whether the legislation has significantly improved or increased the bureaucratic burden on police forces and police authorities. HMIC has an expectation forces and police authorities should be proactive in securing continuous improvement giving due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Best Value is one of the many tools that is considered within this process and HMIC has worked with the Service to ensure that, wherever possible, the full benefits of the approach are realised while avoiding the potential downside of excessive bureaucracy.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which London boroughs' police community consultative groups have had their funding withdrawn in each year since 2000 [2462]

Hazel Blears: The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis is responsible for the operational management of, and allocation of funding by, the force. I will ensure that he receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly in response to your concerns.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list local authorities in England which have provided funds to police authorities for the purchase of additional police community support officers (PCSOs); how many PCSOs have been provided under such purchasing agreements; and what funding stream was used by each local authority to pay for the additional PCSOs. [2923]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* This information is not collected centrally. Community support officers (CSOs) are employed by police authorities. At the end of March 2005, there are over 6,300 CSOs in post. Of these 4,367 posts are supported by some degree of Home Office funding. The Neighbourhood Policing Fund will assist forces to increase the number of CSOs to 24,000 by 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the courts in which completed proceedings against police officers from Essex have taken place in each year since 2000. [1244]

Hazel Blears: The Chief Constable of the Essex police force is responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the force. I will ensure that he receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly in response to your concerns.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths in police custody have occurred in each police authority in each year since 1990; and in how many cases the person who died was considered to be suffering from a mental illness. [1616]

Hazel Blears: An annual published breakdown by force area of those who have died during or following contact with the police for each of the last five years, is attached at annex A. Prior to 1997, the Home Office did not collect the statistics by force area. The breakdown is not structured to provide specific information on those with mental health problems. However, since 1997 there have been some deaths of those detained by the police under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, and these figures are listed separately in the tables at annex A. Mental health problems may be a factor in other deaths or—particularly those that are recorded under category three (deaths in or following police custody).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether he has completed his assessment of the McFarland Report on the performance and structure of the Police Information Technology Organisation; and when he intends to make a statement; [2176]

(2) whether he plans to publish a summary of the McFarland Report on the performance and structure of the Police Information Technology Organisation. [2177]

Hazel Blears: The Review's report has been completed and is still under consideration by Ministers. Once Ministers have considered the content of the report, the report will be published and copies of the final report will then be available in the Libraries of both Houses. A Ministerial statement will be made to Parliament in due course.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's plans are for the modernisation of the police service; and if he will make a statement. [561]

Hazel Blears: The Government's plans for a modernised police service—which is more responsive, visible, accessible and accountable to local communities—were set out in the November 2004 White Paper 'Building Communities, Beating Crime'. Key elements of the reform programme include: ensuring every community in England and Wales benefits from neighbourhood policing by 2008; building a stronger customer service culture within the service; strengthened accountability arrangements and a greater role for local people in determining how their communities are policed; further reductions in bureaucracy; ensuring greater national consistency on issues such as IT; consideration of whether we have the right policing structures to meet present and future challenges; and further modernisation of the workforce to enable the service to deliver these changes.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations there were in London in each of the last five years. [2526]

Hazel Blears: The Commissioners of Police of the metropolis and for the City of London are responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the police forces in London. I will ensure they receive a copy of the question and reply directly to you in response to your concerns.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the policing targets instructing officers to make four arrests per month for specified offences or face the prospect of disciplinary action. [563]

Hazel Blears: There are no Government performance targets for police forces in respect of the number of arrests to be made. The individual performance regimes for individual forces and how they are managed are rightly a matter for the chief constable and their police authority.

Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison inmates have escaped from prisons in England and Wales in each of the last eight years. [2908]

Fiona Mactaggart: The following performance indicators identify an escape as one where (i) the prisoner is not recaptured within 15 minutes or (ii) is recaptured within 15 minutes but has committed an offence other than escape before recapture.

Table 1: Number of escapes from prisons (includes escapes from contracted out prisons)

	Number
1997–98	23
1998–99	28
1999–2000	30
2000–01	11
2001–02	15
2002–03	5
2003–04	10
2004–05	12

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances female prison officers are expected to search male prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [1872]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* Female prison officers are expected to perform rub down searches on male prisoners on a routine basis. Staff working in high security establishments will carry out more frequent rub down searching than lower category establishments.

Female officers are not allowed to view a strip search of a male prisoner or participate in one.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals his Department has made against tribunal decisions which have compensated female prison officers for having been made to search male prisoners in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [1873]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* In the last 10 years, one female prison officer successfully sought an employment tribunal ruling that she was unfairly being asked to rub-down search male prisoners. The decision made by that tribunal is being appealed by the Prison Service.

Probation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to make the employees of probation boards in England and Wales civil servants. [329]

Fiona Mactaggart: Work on the future organisational design of the National Offender Management Service has still to be concluded.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been employed in the Probation Service in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend in each year since 2000. [2136]

Fiona Mactaggart: The requested information is not available for the full period required. Data collected prior to 1 April 2003 is unreliable, and is not directly comparable with the more accurate figures collected since that time. The following figures show full-time equivalent (FTE) figures for each Quarter from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005.

Staffing information is collected by probation area, and is not collected centrally in sufficient detail to allow figures for Southend to be presented separately. The staffing figures are provided for the Essex probation area only.

Essex probation area	FTE in post
30 June 2003	385.4
30 September 2003	383.7
31 December 2003	393.1
31 March 2004	399.1
30 June 2004	414.7
30 September 2004	406.5
31 December 2004	432.6

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the Probation Service in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex was in each year since 2000. [2137]

Fiona Mactaggart: The table shows the net expenditure for the Essex probation area in each year since 2000.

Data on Probation Service costs are collected by probation area. The figures collected centrally are not in sufficient detail to allow costs for Southend to be presented separately.

Essex probation area

Financial year	Net expenditure (£000)
2000–01	10,786.20
2001–02	13,554.20
2002–03	14,660.80
2003–04	15,308.30

Race Equality Council (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the *(a)* work of and *(b)* funding in 2005–06 for the Race Equality Council for Gloucestershire. [689]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 24 May 2005]:* Gloucestershire Race Equality Council (REC) was unsuccessful in its application for funding for this year from the Commission for Racial Equality's Getting Results grant programme. However the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) is planning to build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector, including RECs, to deliver local race equality services in the areas of most need. The CRE has set aside £250,000 for this work. I welcome this development and hope it will benefit Gloucester.

Secure Training Centres

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were received into each secure training centre *(a)* on remand and *(b)* under sentence in each year since they opened, broken down by age. [899]

Fiona Mactaggart: The number of young people received into each secure training centre between 1 January 2000 to 30 April 2005 is shown in the tables. Information on admissions prior to 1 April 2000 is not available centrally.

Admissions to secure training centres

2000

	Sentence type		
STC	Remand	Sentenced	Grand total
Hassockfield STC			
Age			
12	—	5	5
13	1	21	22
14	—	77	77
15	2	15	17
16	—	1	1
Hassockfield STC Total	3	119	122
Medway			
Age			
12	—	2	2
13	1	28	29
14	—	62	62
15	1	28	29
16	—	11	11
17	—	1	1
Medway total	2	132	134
Rainsbrook			
Age			
12	—	5	5
13	—	19	19
14	—	83	83
15	2	27	29
16	—	5	5
Rainsbrook total	2	139	141
Grand Total	7	390	397

2001

	Sentence type		
STC	Remand	Sentenced	Grand total
Hassockfield STC			
Age			
12	—	4	4
13	—	35	35
14	—	124	124
15	—	20	20
16	1	5	6
Hassockfield STC Total	1	188	189
Medway			
Age			
12	—	5	5
13	—	19	19
14	—	78	78
15	1	36	37
16	1	10	11
Medway total	2	148	150
Rainsbrook			
Age			
12	—	3	3
13	—	21	21
14	—	77	77
15	—	31	31
16	—	6	6
17	—	1	1
Rainsbrook total	—	139	139
Grand Total	3	475	478

2002

STC	Sentence type: Remand	Sentenced	Grand total
Hassockfield STC			
Age			
11	—	1	1
12	1	1	2
13	6	32	38
14	30	95	125
15	8	22	30
16	6	4	10
Hassockfield STC Total	51	155	206
Medway			
Age			
12	—	4	4
13	2	19	21
14	5	59	64
15	11	39	50
16	9	15	24
Medway total	27	136	163
Rainsbrook			
Age			
12	—	4	4
13	10	31	41
14	19	70	89
15	18	28	46
16	17	13	30
17	—	1	1
Rainsbrook total	64	147	211
Grand Total	142	438	580

2003

STC	Sentence type: Remand	Sentenced	Grand total
Hassockfield STC			
Age			
12	—	1	1
13	5	17	22
14	21	48	69
15	14	33	47
16	14	22	36
17	—	2	2
Hassockfield STC Total	54	123	177
Medway			
Age			
12	2	5	7
13	10	22	32
14	31	89	120
15	23	78	101
16	13	46	59
17	1	2	3
Medway total	80	242	322
Rainsbrook			
Age			
12	3	1	4
13	18	16	34
14	39	62	101
15	47	39	86
16	29	35	64
Rainsbrook total	136	153	289
Grand Total	270	518	788

2004

STC	Sentence type: Remand	Sentenced	Grand total
Hassockfield STC			
Age			
12	1	1	2
13	10	13	23
14	31	52	83
15	22	44	66
16	18	20	38
17	—	2	2
Hassockfield STC Total	82	132	214
Medway			
Age			
12	1	4	5
13	8	19	27
14	22	88	110
15	19	50	69
16	22	55	77
Medway total	72	216	288
Oakhill STC			
Age			
12	1	3	4
13	2	5	7
14	17	18	35
15	13	14	27
16	4	11	15
17	—	1	1
Oakhill STC total	37	52	89
Rainsbrook			
Age			
12	—	1	1
13	15	13	28
14	50	64	114
15	28	53	81
16	29	42	71
17	1	—	1
Rainsbrook total	123	173	296
Grand Total	314	573	887

2005

STC	Sentence type: Remand	Sentenced	Grand total
Hassockfield STC			
Age			
12	1	—	1
13	4	3	7
14	12	14	26
15	7	13	20
16	12	12	24
Hassockfield STC Total	36	42	78
Medway			
Age			
13	1	4	5
14	13	22	35
15	6	21	27
16	8	21	29
17	—	2	2
Medway total	28	70	98
Oakhill STC			
Age			
12	1	—	1
13	2	3	5
14	14	21	35
15	9	23	32
16	7	13	20
Oakhill STC total	33	60	93

2005

STC	Sentence type: Remand	Sentenced	Grand total
Rainsbrook			
Age			
13	4	4	8
14	16	21	37
15	6	18	24
16	12	14	26
17	—	1	1
Rainsbrook total	38	58	96
Grand Total	135	230	365

Sure Start

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many second phase Sure Start's children's centres are planned in each local authority during 2006–08; and how much funding will be provided to each local authority for this purpose. [1812]

Beverley Hughes: A total of £947 million funding has been made available to local authorities in the second phase of the children's centres programme. This comprise of £405,523,772 capital and £542,205,843 revenue. The capital allocation is to contribute to the funding of new children's centre places to be created in phase two, whereas the revenue allocation is to fund both new and existing centres created in phases 1 and 2. Local authorities will develop their children's centres by building on existing provision such as Sure Start local programmes, neighbourhood nurseries and primary schools which have already benefited from a number of funding streams. The following table sets out the funding allocated to each local authority.

Local authority	*Total number of CCs required in 2006–08*[1]	*Total capital 2006–08, including 20 per cent. London uplift*[2]	*Total revenue 2006–08 including 10 per cent. London uplift*[2]
Barking and Dagenham	6	2,388,828	5,105,821
Barnet	15	3,821,802	3,082,925
Barnsley	5	1,001,920	3,463,680
Bath and NE Somerset	6	964,830	827,201
Bedfordshire	18	2,972,555	3,267,137
Bexley	8	1,568,238	2,286,878
Birmingham	43	15,307,670	25,718,111
Blackburn with Darwen	5	1,198,810	2,283,734
Blackpool	3	750,825	2,325,298
Bolton	10	3,007,975	4,041,326
Bournemouth	5	1,117,310	1,896,905
Bracknell Forest	6	1,028,445	836,341
Bradford	15	3,839,200	10,620,192
Brent	9	2,049,714	3,842,938
Brighton and Hove	9	2,267,380	2,801,391
Bristol	14	3,629,485	5,366,977
Bromley	13	2,712,486	2,913,960
Buckinghamshire	22	3,628,945	3,252,676
Bury	8	2,034,685	2,531,485
Calderdale	9	2,347,325	2,231,737
Cambridgeshire	22	3,488,440	3,532,242
Camden	9	3,478,662	2,347,693
Cheshire	27	5,009,345	4,751,908
City of London[3]	—	—	—
Cornwall	16	3,022,960	2,532,384
County of Herefordshire	6	940,360	1,027,314
Coventry	9	2,077,055	4,506,056
Croydon	17	5,344,500	4,451,078
Cumbria	16	2,991,755	3,655,529
Darlington	2	444,090	1,002,794
Derby	8	2,169,735	2,746,118
Derbyshire	29	5,890,135	6,594,458
Devon	24	4,283,720	3,507,294
Doncaster	8	1,966,305	4,569,916
Dorset	13	2,077,090	2,129,300
Dudley	11	2,544,485	3,806,311
Durham	12	2,690,605	4,109,869
Ealing	12	3,585,480	4,859,418
East Riding of Yorkshire	10	1,436,025	2,295,874
East Sussex	18	3,575,715	2,879,147
Enfield	11	2,858,190	4,996,785
Essex	53	9,001,295	10,873,952
Gateshead	5	1,403,115	2,562,509
Gloucestershire	23	3,826,990	3,756,377
Greenwich	7	2,331,942	4,901,299
Hackney	8	4,271,454	6,552,491
Halton	3	477,295	809,168
Hammersmith and Fulham	7	2,499,168	1,656,494
Hampshire	53	9,515,160	7,958,958
Haringey	8	3,366,132	4,725,163
Harrow	9	1,012,830	1,818,542
Hartlepool	2	718,190	1,110,245
Havering	8	1,283,682	1,988,912
Hertfordshire	49	9,371,350	7,761,791
Hillingdon	12	3,297,744	2,366,595
Hounslow	11	3,647,964	3,472,361
Isle of Wight	3	409,150	1,379,321
Isles of Stilly	—	—	—
Islington	5	2,566,722	3,613,793
Kensington and Chelsea	6	1,301,292	1,378,808
Kent	52	9,134,060	10,648,341
Kingston upon Hull	7	2,273,440	2,599,548
Kingston Upon Thames	7	829,920	1,190,239
Kirklees	15	3,778,855	6,714,086
Knowsley	3	681,925	2,410,783
Lambeth	10	4,146,438	6,336,245
Lancashire	40	8,130,990	10,283,537
Leeds	26	7,308,535	8,385,926
Leicester City	8	2,169,125	6,572,971
Leicestershire	24	4,104,055	3,777,122
Lewisham	9	3,044,958	5,902,008
Lincolnshire	23	4,192,565	3,423,583
Liverpool	8	2,907,975	9,025,886
Luton	8	2,151,485	3,787,873
Manchester	10	3,946,160	9,419,364
Medway	10	1,898,615	2,542,766
Merton	8	1,793,226	1,893,882
Middlesbrough	4	1,096,435	1,181,447
Milton Keynes	10	1,737,145	2,174,242
Newcastle upon Tyne	6	1,448,890	2,345,930
Newham	8	4,157,658	9,083,995
Norfolk	26	3,903,885	3,967,069
North East Lincolnshire	6	1,844,420	1,386,399
North Lincolnshire	4	806,955	1,210,277
North Somerset	7	999,235	1,219,607
North Tyneside	6	1,403,335	2,059,718
North Yorkshire	21	3,261,090	3,211,280
Northamptonshire	27	4,996,990	5,213,489
Northumberland	10	2,046,550	1,628,435
Nottingham City	7	2,476,120	4,527,426
Nottinghamshire	26	5,093,215	6,146,864
Oldham	8	2,189,620	4,071,087
Oxfordshire	25	4,314,465	4,480,780
Peterborough	6	1,458,780	1,790,517
Plymouth	7	1,667,945	2,512,798
Poole	6	1,218,555	961,301
Portsmouth	7	1,798,495	1,797,128
Reading	6	1,139,670	1,591,823
Redbridge	10	1,941,708	2,842,516
Redcar and Cleveland	4	614,895	979,244
Richmond Upon Thames	9	1,141,560	1,485,168
Rochdale	8	2,372,525	2,670,073
Rotherham	8	1,836,645	4,173,631
Rutland	1	218,225	180,784
Salford	6	1,550,040	3,646,710
Sandwell	7	2,382,750	6,173,249
Sefton	9	1,817,725	2,436,913

Local authority	Total number of CCs required in 2006–08 [1]	Total capital 2006–08, including 20 per cent. London uplift [2]	Total revenue 2006–08 including 10 per cent. London uplift [2]
Sheffield	18	4,749,895	5,932,118
Shropshire	10	1,833,355	1,506,545
Slough	5	922,740	1,862,463
Solihull	7	1,362,130	1,971,992
Somerset	19	3,087,485	2,897,077
South Tyneside	3	751,005	1,982,293
Southampton	8	1,887,540	2,380,347
Southend	7	1,587,465	1,933,426
Southward	9	3,555,360	5,319,798
St. Helens	4	971,460	2,311,935
Staffordshire	32	5,760,275	5,065,655
South Gloucestershire	11	2,139,975	1,717,490
Stockport	12	2,637,190	3,134,651
Stockton-on-Tees	6	1,250,715	979,949
Stoke-on-Trent	5	1,333,265	3,343,144
Suffolk	26	4,279,960	4,564,098
Sunderland	6	1,572,125	3,704,269
Surrey	46	8,113,945	6,862,882
Sutton	8	1,585,572	1,648,579
Swindon	7	1,074,825	1,819,870
Tameside	6	1,657,750	3,336,263
Telford and Wrekin	7	1,346,770	2,178,740
Thurrock	5	786,815	2,162,756
Torbay	3	367,850	1,128,890
Tower Hamlets	6	3,090,984	5,573,446
Trafford	8	1,638,910	2,620,577
West Berkshire	6	1,164,685	945,625
Wakefield	8	1,908,270	5,207,885
Walsall	8	2,494,510	4,575,941
Waltham Forest	8	2,913,036	5,400,914
Wandsworth	13	3,734,946	2,656,529
Warrington	7	1,466,965	2,017,555
Warwickshire	20	3,244,685	3,475,765
West Sussex	30	5,478,575	4,563,728
Westminster	7	2,525,826	1,735,024
Wigan	9	2,350,235	5,882,837
Wiltshire	20	3,764,660	3,035,235
Windsor and Maidenhead	6	1,090,780	885,129
Wirral	9	2,055,330	4,700,360
Wokingham	7	1,082,650	901,730
Wolverhampton	6	1,598,730	3,678,806
Worcestershire	23	4,372,670	3,523,769
York	8	1,689,450	1,330,718
Total	1,823	405,523,772	542,205,843

[1] These are subject to negotiation if authorities with large targets wish to defer some centres to phase 3;

[2] Excluding rural uplift. Authorities with rural areas will be advised of their allocations shortly;

[3] Allocations yet to be agreed—due to the small number of children in those authorities we are working with the authorities to determine suitable targets and funding.

Tube Ticket Touting

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made outside tube stations in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* each London borough for ticket touting in each year since 1997. [2510]

Fiona Mactaggart: In England and Wales ticket touting outside tube stations is not in itself an offence.

Violent Crime (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes against the person were committed in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [2515]

Hazel Blears: The available information relates to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) areas in the Metropolitan Police force area and is available on the Home Office website. Data at CDRP level is only available from 1999.

The appropriate links are as follows:

Data for 2002–03 and 2003–04:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/cdrptabs.xls

Data for 2000–01 and 2001–02:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb702chap7.xls Table 7.06

Data for 1999–2000:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/1200data2.xls -Table 7.

Weapon Sales

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will impose restrictions on the sale of crossbows and swords. [1662]

Hazel Blears: There are restrictions on the sale of these weapons to young people and it is also an offence to have an offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. It is already an offence to sell knives and other articles with a blade or point including swords to a person under 16. We are raising this to a person under 18 in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill. We condemn the misuse of crossbows and swords and will keep the powers to deal with offensive weapons under review as the Bill goes through Parliament.

Youth Justice Bill

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department will publish the draft Youth Justice Bill. [2724]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* We are currently working on a range of youth justice provisions which will be introduced in one or more Bills as soon as parliamentary time permits.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Community Justice Facilities

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on her Department's plans to establish community justice facilities in Salford. [1772]

Ms Harman: A community justice initiative is being developed in Salford. The initiative will focus on antisocial behaviour and increasing community confidence in the criminal justice system. The initiative will be operational from November 2005. Salford is the second community justice initiative in the country.

Compensation Claims Companies

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the Department's plan to regulate advertising by compensation claims management companies. [2830]

Bridget Prentice: We are committed to tackling irresponsible claims advertising by claims management companies and solicitors that raises false hopes of compensation and encourages people to bring unnecessary claims. We are considering what action needs to be taken to address this.

Compulsory Voting

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the review of electoral systems will examine the merits of compulsory voting. [3171]

Ms Harman: The Department for Constitutional Affairs is conducting an official level review of the experiences of the new systems for the election of members of the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly, the European Parliament and the Greater London Assembly and Mayor. This review is not considering the case for compulsory voting.

Coroners Courts

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to hold a review of the *(a)* operation and *(b)* scope of coroners courts; and if she will make a statement. [3699]

Ms Harman: The Government are committed to reforming the arrangements relating to coroners and death certification and these include the operation and scope of coroners courts. I shall be looking at the best way of taking this forward, building on the Home Office Position Paper and taking into account the Reports of the Fundamental Review of the Coroner Service and the Shipman Inquiry.

Court House (Colchester)

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on progress with the proposed new court house in Colchester. [3091]

Ms Harman: The Essex magistrates court scheme, of which Colchester is part, continues to be within the programme of new court projects. However, my Department is still finalising investment plans, as part of the development of a business strategy for Her Majesty's Court Service. This is due to be produced by the end of summer 2005 and a further announcement will be made shortly thereafter.

Deputy District Judges

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many deputy district judges (magistrates courts) were in post on 1 January in each of the last five years; [2832]

(2) how many district judges (magistrates courts) were in post on 1 January in each of the last five years; and what plans she has to increase the number. [2833]

Ms Harman: The number of district judges (magistrates courts) (DJ(MC)) and deputy district judges (magistrates courts) (DDJ(MC)) in posts on 1 January from 2001 to 2005 was as follows.

	DJ(MC)	DDJ(MC)
2001	91	169
2002	95	162
2003	105	147
2004	106	174
2005	124	149

Existing plans allow for a total number of DJ(MC) posts in 2005–06 of 140 in 2006–07 of 145 and in 2007–08 of 150. The number created in any year is however subject to the business needs of Her Majesty's Courts Service. The total number of approved posts at this time in England and Wales is 137.

Electoral Administration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what plans the Government have to ringfence Government funding of local authorities' electoral administration budgets; [3610]

(2) what plans the Government have to introduce performance targets for local authority electoral administration departments. [3611]

Ms Harman: The Government have no plans to ringfence Government funding of local authorities' electoral administration budgets. The Government intend to include in the forthcoming Electoral Administration Bill a power to allow the Electoral Commission to set performance standards for electoral administration and to require reports to be prepared on how they have been met.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the Government's plans to *(a)* introduce clearer rules for candidates and political parties and *(b)* reduce bureaucracy for smaller parties and independent candidates. [3612]

Ms Harman: The Government's response to The Electoral Commission's report "Voting for change—An electoral law modernisation programme", published in December 2004 sets out how we propose to take forward the Commission's proposals relating to candidates and political parties. The necessary legislative provisions will be included in the Electoral Administration Bill which was announced in the Queen's Speech on 17 May.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions Ministers have held over the last 12 months with the Electoral Commission regarding individual voter registration. [1769]

Ms Harman: Ministers in my Department have held various meetings with the Electoral Commission in the last 12 months where electoral issues, including individual voter registration were discussed.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people have been imprisoned in each year since 1995 for offences under electoral law. [656]

Ms Harman: We are aware of the following prosecutions, although, this information is not collected centrally. The cases include Hackney where two councillors were imprisoned in 2001 for three years each for registering electors falsely. In Blackburn, a Labour councillor pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the returning officer. He was sentenced to three years and seven months on 8 April 2005. In Guildford, a former Conservative councillor was jailed for four months in April 2004 for forging ballot papers in a local election. These prosecutions even though related to electoral matters were not specific electoral offences.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many prosecutions there have been in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Swale for not registering to vote since 1997. [2653]

Ms Harman: It is not an offence in electoral law to fail to register to vote although it is an offence to fail to complete and return an annual registration canvass form to an electoral registration officer (ERO). Local EROs are responsible for compiling a register of eligible electors for their registration area and would hold locally any records regarding prosecutions for failure to supply information requested. I understand there have been none since 1997 in Swale but such information is not collected centrally either for Kent or the UK.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what arrangements are in place for obtaining copies of the marked electoral register in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Northern Ireland and *(c)* England. [3613]

Ms Harman: In Scotland, the marked electoral registers produced at the 2005 general election are stored by the relevant sheriff clerk of the sheriff court. In Northern Ireland, they are stored by the Clerk of the Crown for Northern Ireland, in Belfast. In England (and Wales) they are stored by Pickfords Records Management, at their site in Bow, London, on behalf of the Clerk of the Crown. Applications to view or obtain copies of them should be made to those authorities.

Family Justice

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the Department's plans to reform the family justice system. [2819]

Bridget Prentice: The Government published 'Parental Separation: Children's needs and Parents' Responsibilities, Next Steps' on 18 January, which sets out plans to implement a range of measures to help separating parents in dispute reach agreement about future parenting arrangements.

The Government's plans include improvements in the information available to parents and greater use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as mediation and conciliation at the start of court proceedings. The Family Resolutions Pilot Project is testing out new arrangements for handling the more intractable contact cases. The Government intends to promote these methods as better ways to reach agreement than through contested court hearings.

Also on 18 January, the former President of the Family Division issued the Private Law Programme, designed to improve judicial case management and reduce delays in the family justice system.

Legislation (the Children and Adoption Bill) will be taken forward in the 2005–06 parliamentary session to give the courts more flexible powers to help improve the enforcement of court orders and facilitate child contact. The draft Bill underwent pre-legislative scrutiny.

Gravestones

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Constitutional Affairs (1) what guidance he provides for local authorities on the need to consult families of the deceased before *(a)* levelling, *(b)* disturbing and *(c)* flattening gravestones or markers; [3631]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured by falling or unstable gravestones in (i) St. Albans and (ii) Hertfordshire in the last 25 years. [3260]

Ms Harman: Advice has been sought from relevant professional bodies on issues arising from unsafe memorials and we are currently considering what guidance might now be given to local authorities and others on these issues, including the need to consult families.

Information on the total number of deaths and serious injuries is not recorded centrally, but I understand that, sadly, as at June 2004 there have been at least three deaths and 18 serious injuries attributed to unstable memorials in recent years. I understand that none of these incidents has occurred in St. Albans or in Hertfordshire.

High Court Applications (Wills)

Mr. Alan Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what records are kept of the number of applications to the High Court to seal a will in order to prevent it being made public. [3106]

Ms Harman: Records are not maintained centrally of the number of applications to the High Court to seal a will in order to prevent its being made public. That information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Judicial Pensions Bill

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the Department's plans to bring forward a Judicial Pensions Bill. [2820]

Ms Harman: The inclusion of a Judicial Pensions Bill in the legislative programme for the 1st Session of the new Parliament, was announced at the time of the Queen's Speech on 17 May 2005.

Legal Aid

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the Department's plans to reduce the proportion of the legal aid budget expended on very high cost criminal cases. [2813]

Bridget Prentice: The Government and the Legal Services Commission are committed to securing value for money in all high cost legal aid cases, particularly very high cost criminal cases. We are addressing very high cost criminal cases in two ways. First, the fundamental legal aid review announced in May 2004, has been examining wider processes on criminal legal aid costs so that better outcomes for those who need publicly funded legal services can be achieved and efficient services delivered for the taxpayer. Second from September 2003 the Legal Services Commission has brought all new eligible very high cost criminal cases under individual case contracts. In these cases all work must be set out in a stage plan in advance, so that the Legal Services Commission can ensure that the work done is proportionate. The Legal Services Commission calculates that during 2003–04 savings of around £26.5 million were achieved.

Magistrates

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of trials in magistrates courts in the Greater London area were ineffective on the date fixed for trial in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [2964]

Ms Harman: In the last 12 months (financial year April 2004-March 2005) 31.7 per cent. of trials in the magistrates courts Greater London area became ineffective on the date of trial. In comparison to this 37.1 per cent. of trials became ineffective on the date of trial for the financial year April 2003-March 2004. This is a 14.8 per cent. improvement in performance.

Parliamentary Boundaries

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the timetable is for parliamentary boundary changes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [3609]

Ms Harman: The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales submitted its report recommending boundary changes for Westminster parliamentary and National Assembly of Wales constituencies in January 2005. That report will be laid before Parliament shortly. In its last annual report, the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England indicated that, at its current rate of progress, it expected to publish its report on English parliamentary boundaries in the late summer of 2006. Once implemented, no changes will take effect until the next Westminster parliamentary general election, or the next general election to the National Assembly of Wales.

Personal Injury Cases

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has to raise the limit on small claims for personal injury cases. [2824]

Bridget Prentice: The Better Regulation Task Force in its report, 'Better Routes to Redress' recommended that research should be carried out into the potential impact of raising the small claims limit for personal injury cases from the current limit of £1,000. The Government indicated that it would carry out this research and would also consider other options for dealing with these claims in a more proportionate and cost effective way. That research is currently under way and consultation will take place on any proposals which may emerge.

Negligence

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on plans to make statutory changes to the common law tort of negligence. [2822]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have announced that they will introduce legislation in the Compensation Bill to clarify the existing common law of negligence to make clear that those who take reasonable care or exercise reasonable skill cannot be held liable for untoward incidents.

Victims of Crime

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has to grant the victims of certain crimes and their families a right to representation and advocacy in court. [2814]

Ms Harman: We are looking at how we could provide legal advice and representation for victims of certain crimes. We are now working up proposals, with other ministerial colleagues, and will make an announcement in due course.

Voter Registration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the Government's policy is on individual voter registration. [2948]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 24 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 84W.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many prosecutions there have been under the Representation of the People Act 2000 for failing to register to vote. [3033]

Ms Harman: It is not an offence in electoral law to fail to register to vote although it is an offence to fail to complete and return an annual registration canvass form to an electoral registration officer (ERO). Local EROs are responsible for compiling a register of eligible electors for their registration area and would hold locally any records regarding prosecutions for failure to supply information requested.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria will be used to determine where new Academies will be placed. [4094]

Jacqui Smith: The location of Academies is determined on an individual basis taking into account historic educational performance, the level of

deprivation in the area concerned, parental demand as well as the quality and suitability of each specific proposal.

Adult Education Funding

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what budgets have been agreed between her Department and the Learning and Skills Council for adult education for each region of England for *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06. [3243]

Maria Eagle: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Of the LSC's 2004–05 budget, £2.466 billion was allocated to adult education, including adult FE provision, Adult Community Learning and Work Based Learning. Of the 2005–06 budget, £2.499 billion was allocated to adult education. It should be noted however that allocations for 2005/06 academic year are still being finalised, and the figures for both FE and Work Based Learning may change.

The Department does not agree specific regional budgets with the LSC for adult education.

A-levels

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what actions her Department is taking to develop extended projects at A-level; [3850]

(2) when she intends to introduce extended projects at A-level. [3851]

Jacqui Smith: We have asked the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to take forward work on developing extended projects in consultation with employers and higher education institutions. Consultation will extend into the autumn.

Different models of the extended project will be piloted from September 2006, and QCA will evaluate the outcomes in 2007 and 2008.

Autism

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the schools which provide specialist education for children with autism; and which are *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential. [3662]

Maria Eagle: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what account was taken of the school repair backlog when prioritising schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [3779]

(2) what the target dates are for agreeing the Education Vision for projects in *(a)* waves 4–6, *(b)* waves 7–9, *(c)* waves 10–12 and *(d)* waves 13–15 of the Building Schools for the Future initiative. [3989]

Jacqui Smith: We have set up Building Schools for the Future to change the 'patch and mend' approach to the school repair backlog, which unfortunately built up over many decades of underinvestment. Repair backlog was not a criterion for choosing projects. But local authorities were asked to reflect repair backlog at their schools in their proposals for wave 1 and expressions of interest for waves 2 and 3. This information fed into our allocations to each project. We expect each local authority to carry out options appraisals to decide how best to address the condition and other issues at each school, and to invest appropriately.

Assuming that spending reviews continue in the current pattern, we intend to announce two further waves of investment after each spending review. So, for example, waves four and five would be announced in late 2006, waves 6 and 7 in 2008, and so on. Our planning assumption is that local authorities will submit education visions for agreement within three months of a project starting.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* new schools, *(b)* replacement schools and *(c)* refurbished schools are to be provided in each of the (i) Pathfinder and (ii) wave one Building Schools for the Future projects. [3780]

Jacqui Smith: For Building Schools for the Future pathfinder projects the breakdown of new build and refurbished schools, (all of which are replacement schools) is as follows:

Authority	*Number of new build schools*	*Number of refurbished schools*
Bradford	3	—
Bristol	4	—
Greenwich	3	2
Lewisham	1	2
Sheffield	3	6

For Building Schools for the Future wave one projects, current plans indicate that there will be one new school (as in additional provision) provided in Waltham Forest, with the breakdown of new build and refurbishment in replacement schools as follows:

Authority	*Number of new build schools*	*Number of refurbished schools*
Knowsley	8	—
Lancashire	9	—
Leeds	5	9
Leicester	6	12
Manchester	8	8
Newcastle	3	7
Newham	4	11
Solihull	4	—
South Tyneside	3	9
Stoke	9	15
Sunderland	5	4
Waltham Forest	2	5

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the private sector partners involved in each successful bid for Building Schools for the Future. [3782]

Jacqui Smith: Eight projects in wave one of Building Schools for the Future are currently in procurement but none has reached the stage of appointing a preferred bidder yet. We expect the most advanced projects to appoint preferred bidders in October this year

Bullying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the prevalence of bullying in schools in England. [3286]

Jacqui Smith: Data on bullying are not collected centrally and there is no reliable basis for an estimate of prevalence. Bullying cases appear to be reported more often now than previously but we have no hard evidence that bullying is increasing or that it is affecting more children. Indeed, as children and young people increasingly feel safe at school to report bullying, and confident that it will be tackled effectively and sensitively, it is likely reporting will rise.

However, any level of bullying is too high and we are determined to help schools tackle the problem. Our guidance pack 'Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence', the anti-bullying Charter and the anti-bullying website www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying offer detailed advice on preventing and addressing bullying. We also offer specific advice to schools on tackling homophobic bullying and are developing advice on racist bullying.

CAFCASS

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to reform the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [2817]

Maria Eagle: We are continuing to develop CAFCASS's role as a key contributor to the Government's work to improve the support available to children and families. In particular, the Green Paper "Parental Separation: Children's Needs and Parents' Responsibilities", published in July 2004, and the subsequent "Next Steps" document, published in January 2005, set out a major change of approach for CAFCASS practitioners working with families, by moving their work away from report writing to a more active, problem-solving role in facilitating agreement between parents over contact and residence arrangements in the best interests of their children. The Children (Contact) and Adoption Bill will underpin this new role, by giving CAFCASS a clear part to play in facilitating contact and monitoring contact orders.

This shift in the nature of CAFCASS's work closely reflects the view of the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee, in its March 2005 report on Family Justice, which recommended an emphasis on 'overcoming problems' in CAFCASS interventions.

In addition, CAFCASS is currently undergoing internal restructuring in order further to renew and strengthen its operational front-line focus for all aspects of its work with children and families.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many cases remain to be allocated to a case worker in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS); and what the average length of time is for allocation of new cases to a case worker, broken down by CAFCASS region in England. [3622]

Maria Eagle: The total number of CAFCASS unallocated Public Law Children Act 1989 cases (applications for local authority care and supervision orders and applications for adoption) at 31 March 2005 is 316, representing 2.7 per cent. of the caseload. This meets CAFCASS' key performance indicator target that the number of cases unallocated for the month should be no more than the target of 3 per cent. of the workload.

A regional break-down of Public Law cases is provided in the following table which shows the number of unallocated cases by region.

CAFCASS—Public Law unallocated cases at 31 March 2005

Region	
East Midlands	2
Eastern	15
Greater London	90
North East	20
North West	35
South East	41
South West	22
Wales	2
West Midlands	35
Yorks and Humberside	54
Total	316

In Public Law, CAFCASS' key performance indicator states that at least 98 per cent. of all public allocations each month for all case types should be within 28 days of receipt of request. In 2004/05 CAFCASS allocated 92.7 per cent: of it cases within 28 days.

The total number of CAFCASS Private Law reports (as a consequence of applications for parental responsibility, residence and contact, where parents have been unable to reach agreement on these matters) unallocated less than 10 weeks before filing date as at 31 March 2005 is 168, representing 2 per cent. of the total caseload. In addition CAFCASS hold "managed unallocated" cases where the court has agreed a filing time later than the standard 10 to12 weeks.

CAFCASS does not collect information on the length of time taken to allocate new Private Law cases to case workers by region. CAFCASS' key performance indicator states that the number of private law reports unallocated less than 10 weeks before the court filing date for the month should be no more than 4 per cent. of the total workload.

A regional break-down for Private Law work unallocated less than 10 weeks before filing date is provided in the following table.

CAFCASS—Private Law unallocated cases at 31 March 2005

Region	*Number of unallocated reports less than 10 weeks before court filing date*
East Midlands	0
Eastern	0
Greater London	3
North East	15
North West	21

CAFCASS—Private Law unallocated cases at 31 March 2005

Region	*Number of unallocated reports less than 10 weeks before court filing date*
South East	12
South West	77
Wales	1
West Midlands	13
Yorks and Humberside	26
Total	168

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the impact on families who are affected by delays at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service. [3623]

Maria Eagle: The impact of delay on the welfare of children and their families is a concern for all of the agencies involved in family proceedings and we are concentrating on addressing the causes of delay. It is also a top priority for CAFCASS and, together with the Department for Constitutional Affairs, we are working closely with CAFCASS, the judiciary, local authority social services and others in order to reduce delays in Public Law Children Act 1989 cases (cases that involve social services—mainly care proceedings and adoptions).

CAFCASS itself is making progress in this area. For example, for the CAFCASS Key Performance Indicator Target for 98 per cent. of public law work to be allocated within 28 days, 93.5 per cent. was achieved in March 2005, compared with 90.6 per cent. in March 2004.

Progress is also being made in Private Law work (mainly disputes between separating parents over contact and residence arrangements for their children). CAFCASS has a Private Law Key Performance Indicator Target, where the number of reports unallocated less than 10 weeks before court filing date for the month should be no more than the target of 4 per cent. of the workload. In March 2005 2.0 per cent. of cases were unallocated, compared with 3.2. per cent. in March 2004. There is an expectation that private law reports are completed within 10 to 12 weeks of the date of request being made to CAFCASS. CAFCASS also have "managed unallocated" cases where the court has agreed a filing time later than the standard 10 to 12 weeks. In March 2005 10.8 per cent. of cases were "managed unallocated", compared with 15.5 per cent. in March 2004. The CAFCASS waiting list is continuously reviewed and re-prioritised.

A change in the role of CAFCASS practitioners will also contribute to reducing court delay in Private Law cases. The Green Paper "Parental Separation: Children's Needs and Parents' Responsibilities", published in July 2004, and the subsequent "Next Steps" document, published in January 2005, set out a major change of approach for CAFCASS practitioners working with families, by moving their work away from report writing to a more active, problem-solving role in facilitating agreement between parents over contact and residence arrangements in the best interests of their children.

Capital City Academy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the performance of the Capital City Academy; and if she will make a statement. [2548]

Jacqui Smith: Ofsted inspectors carried out a monitoring visit at Capital City Academy on 18 and 19 May this year, focusing on pupil attainment. That visit found that much has been achieved in the Academy's second year. Year 11 pupils achieved higher than expected results in their 2004 GCSE examinations based on their starting points at the beginning of key stage 4, and the proportion gaining five or more A* to C grades met the target set.

Ofsted conduct monitoring inspections of academies within two years of opening, and the Department's educational advisers also carry out termly monitoring visits. A full inspection of Capital City Academy, which will be published on the Ofsted website, is due before the end of next year.

Child Safeguarding Unit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what guidelines the Department has issued to child safeguarding units at local education authorities on the recording of *(a)* teachers' names and *(b)* details of the complaint where the complaint was dismissed; [4023]

(2) what details about teachers are held by child safeguarding units where a complaint has been made against them; [4024]

(3) what rights teachers have to challenge information held against their name by child safeguarding units; [4025]

(4) in what circumstances information held by child safeguarding units is shared with third parties; [4026]

(5) for how long teachers' names are held by child safeguarding units following the outcome of a complaint. [4027]

Jacqui Smith: My Department has not issued guidelines about recording details of teachers who are the subject of complaints nor does it collect information about the length of time such records are kept by local authorities or what details about the teacher authorities record in each case. It does, however, ask local authorities to collect statistical data about all allegations of abuse made against teachers and other education staff. The information does not identify individuals, but includes information such as the nature of the alleged abuse, and the gender of the person accused, as well as information about how the allegation was investigated and the outcome of that.

It is essential that individuals and organisations working with children share information for the purpose of protecting children. However, it is also important that in all cases the disclosure of information complies with the appropriate legislation: the Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act; and takes account of the common law duty of confidence, and

teachers have the same rights as everyone has under the Data Protection Act to see information that is held about them and challenge its accuracy.

City Academies

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 330–31W, on City Academies, if she will request the information regarding the proportion of lessons setted in city academy schools from Ofsted. [3259]

Jacqui Smith: Ofsted collect some information from Academies and other schools on the extent to which lessons are setted as part of their inspection into the overall quality of education, although this is not done systematically. For example, they will record whether each lesson which is observed is setted or not but they will not ask the school about the total number of lessons which are setting. We do not intend to increase the bureaucratic burden by requiring Ofsted to ask routinely for this information from Academies or other schools.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students were permanently excluded from each city academy in each academic year since the academy was opened; [3195]

(2) how many permanent exclusions from secondary schools took place in each local education authority which has a city academy in its area, in each academic year since the opening of the academy. [3196]

Jacqui Smith: Latest exclusions data are for 2002/03. The table provides the requested information for the first three academies that opened in September 2002.

Number and percentage of permanent exclusions[1]—2002/03

Establishment name	*LEA name*	*Permanent exclusions from the academy*		*Permanent exclusions from maintained secondary schools within the LEA*	
		Number	*Percentage[2]*	*Number*	*Percentage[2]*
Greig City Academy, Haringey	Haringey	13	1.54	29	0.27
Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough	0	0.00	5	0.07
The Business Academy, Bexley	Bexley	4	0.56	56	0.32

[1] Permanent exclusions data are collected retrospectively. The Annual Schools Census (ASC) for 2004 collected data on pupils in schools in January 2004 together with data on permanent exclusions in the school year 2002/03. Figures are as reported by schools.
[2] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population as at January 2003.
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Departmental IT contracts

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* projected cost at the time of tender and *(b)* actual cost at the time of completion was for each IT contract commissioned by her Department and its predecessors in the last five years. [2580]

Maria Eagle: The information in the following table relates to our more recent or current contracts which have been put in place, however, information relating to the last five years is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

£

IT contract	*Business case*	*Cost of contract*
Records Management Service	3.8 million	2.2 million
IP—WAN	1.5 million	993,360
Power over Ethernet	550,600	642,957
Electronic Document and Records Management—Pilot	1.2 million	1.3 million
Caxton House Network Backbone Upgrade	500,000	319,253
Moorfoot Network Backbone Upgrade	400,000	268,664
Integrated HR/Payroll System	850,000	666,000
Integrated Financial Information System	1.6 million	1.7 million
Dual Data Centre	2.2 million	1.7 million
Remote Office	254,000	198,000
Video Conference Upgrade	492,000	492,000
Correspondence Handling System	852,000	850,000
Video/telecom support	450,000	420,000
Video Conference Maintenance	400,000	400,000
Telephony Services	10.8 million	10.8 million
Hard/Software Network Support	375,000	300,000
Web Hosting	5 million	3.64 million
Telephones Moves and Changes	500,000	450,000

Drug-addicted Parents

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the Government's estimate is of the number of children being brought up by grandparents because the children's parents have drug addiction problems. [1718]

Maria Eagle: The Government do not make any estimate of the number of children being brought up by grandparents because of parental drug abuse.

Education Champion (Nottingham)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the creation of an Education Champion for Nottingham, North. [3427]

Jacqui Smith: There is a Higher Education Champion for Nottingham, North, funded by Aimhigher through the Department and Higher Education Funding Council.

Educational Provision

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria will be used to determine whether overall educational standards are too low when making decisions on new school provision. [3857]

Jacqui Smith: The principal criteria in making such decisions will be Ofsted inspection judgments, and in particular inspectors' opinions that the overall provision

in the school is inadequate, and that the school requires special measures or significant improvement, in accordance with the Education Act 2005.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what role her Department will have in making new provision in education to address low standards. [3858]

Jacqui Smith: The Education Act 2005 requires local authorities to hold a competition whenever they plan to establish a new secondary school, including a school which is replacing one or more existing schools. This means that if a school is closed, and a new school established in its place, the local authority must invite potential providers to bring forward proposals. A local authority or potential provider may apply to the Secretary of State to publish proposals for a new school without a competition in exceptional circumstances, for example where it is intended to replace a weak or failing school as part of a collaborative restart. In considering such an application, the Secretary of State would have regard to the extent to which the local authority or independent provider's proposals would contribute to the quality and diversity of provision in the area.

English SATs

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will revise marking guidelines for Standard Assessment Tests at Key Stage 3 in English to ensure spelling is taken into account in assessing performance. [3029]

Jacqui Smith: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and marking of the National Curriculum Tests. Spelling has always been assessed in the Key Stage 3 English test and will continue to be.

Faith Communities

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent consultations have been carried out by her Department with representatives of faith communities; and if she will make a statement. [3230]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Education and Skills has carried out 46 public consultations since 1 December 2003.

Five of these consultations specified faith communities as part of their target audience:

Application of the Best Value Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts to Maintained Schools

Interagency Co-operation to Improve the Wellbeing of Children: Children's Trusts Regulations and Guidance on the Children's and Young People's Plan

Inclusion, Equality and Diversity: Data

School Inspection Regulations

FE Colleges (Targets)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the public service agreement target referred to in the Departmental Report 2004, Cm 6202, page 73, what targets have been set by the *(a)* Department and *(b)* learning skills councils for (i) minimum performance and (ii) value for money for (A) further education colleges and (B) other providers. [3048]

Bill Rammell: The public service agreement committed Government to set minimum performance and value for money targets for further education colleges and institutions, and work based learning providers. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC), working in partnership with the Department, set the minimum performance targets in 2003. Each college has been set a minimum standard for learner achievement and by 2006, every college and 90 per cent. of work based learning providers will be expected to meet or exceed these minimum standards.

Floor targets have been set separately for long and short qualifications for further education colleges and institutions as follows:

Percentage

	Long	*Short*
General FE (and Tertiary) colleges	45	55
Specialist colleges	45	55
Sixth Form colleges	55	50
Funded further education provision in former external institutions	40	45

In work-based learning two floor targets have been set at 40 per cent. and 35 per cent. for different sectors to reflect variations between them.

Value for money targets for colleges have not yet been set. The Department and LSC will develop and trial new value for money indicators during 2006/07 and implement new measures from 2007/08.

Foundation Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation will be necessary to allow primary schools to become foundation schools. [4089]

Jacqui Smith: Primary and secondary legislation is already in place to allow primary schools which are not foundation schools to acquire foundation status. The relevant provisions are section 35 of, and schedule 8 to, the School Standards and Framework Act; and the Education (Change of Category of Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2000, as amended.

The Government's manifesto contains a commitment to enable primary schools to acquire foundation status more easily. This would require amendments to the relevant secondary legislation, which governs the procedures for publishing and deciding proposals to acquire foundation status. We will set out our detailed proposals for implementing this commitment in due course.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects the first primary schools to become foundation schools. [4090]

Jacqui Smith: There are already over 360 foundation primary schools in England. Primary schools which are not foundation schools may seek to acquire foundation status by publishing statutory proposals, which are decided by the School Organisation Committee. The

Government intend to enable primary schools to acquire foundation status more easily, and we will set out our detailed proposals in due course.

GCSE Food Technology

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to what extent the course content of GCSE food technology covers *(a)* food choice, *(b)* nutrient provision, *(c)* nutritional needs of individuals, *(d)* energy balance and *(e)* dietary guidelines for health. [3383]

Jacqui Smith: The precise content of GCSE examination courses is set out in subject specifications, which are a matter for individual awarding bodies. Awarding body specifications must, however, conform to subject criteria laid down by QCA.

The GCSE subject criteria for home economics (food and nutrition) specify, among other things, that candidates should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

nutrition in relation to the preparation and cooking of food;

the relationship between nutrition and good health;

the effect of the marketing and advertising of food products on consumer choice.

Candidates must also demonstrate knowledge and understanding about diet and health in relation to different family members; and how food choice is affected by a variety of factors.

GCSE Music

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary schools in England offer GCSE music. [4108]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of secondary schools offering GCSE music is not centrally available. However, it is possible to provide the number of schools where at least one pupil has attempted GCSE music. In 2003/04, 3,461 out of the 5,353 secondary schools had at least one pupil attempt GCSE music. This is equivalent to 65 per cent. of all secondary schools.

Grammar Schools (Buckinghamshire)

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children there have been in each *(a)* grammar school and *(b)* upper school in Buckinghamshire in each year since 2001, broken down by ethnic group. [3234]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Inner-London Education

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much each inner London local education authority has received under each Government initiative aimed at raising secondary school standards in each year since 1997. [1743]

Jacqui Smith: The following tables show how much each inner London local education received under each Government initiative aimed at raising standards in secondary schools since 1997–98 The tables also give comparable figures for Southampton local education authority since 1997–98.

Grant for Inner London and Southampton local education authorities under initiatives to raise secondary schools standards since 1997–98

£

Local education authority	*Key Stage 3 National Strategy*	*Excellence in Cities*	*Leadership Incentive Grant*	*Leading Edge*	*Beacon Schools*	*Specialist Schools*
1997–98						
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	0
Camden	—	—	—	—	—	128,500
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	—	138,100
Hackney	—	—	—	—	—	47,500
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	—	0
Islington	—	—	—	—	—	0
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—	—	—	0
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	—	0
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	0
Southwark	—	—	—	—	—	77,700
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	—	66,400
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	—	50,100
Westminster	—	—	—	—	—	0
Southampton	—	—	—	—	—	0
1998–99						
City of London	—	—	—	—	0	0
Camden	—	—	—	—	0	215,000
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	0	230,200
Hackney	—	—	—	—	25,000	129,160
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	0	0
Islington	—	—	—	—	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—	—	0	0
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	0	48,420
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	0	0

Grant for Inner London and Southampton local education authorities under initiatives to raise secondary schools standards since 1997–98

£

Local education authority	Key Stage 3 National Strategy	Excellence in Cities	Leadership Incentive Grant	Leading Edge	Beacon Schools	Specialist Schools
Southwark	—	—	—	—	0	81,900
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	0	127,480
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	0	84,800
Westminster	—	—	—	—	0	45,120
Southampton	—	—	—	—	0	0
1999–2000						
City of London	0	5,005	—	—	0	0
Camden	42,000	504,530	—	—	40,000	310,322
Greenwich	80,500	757,839	—	—	50,000	302,063
Hackney	19,000	530,071	—	—	50,000	398,583
Hammersmith and Fulham	14,000	339,756	—	—	34,900	0
Islington	66,505	507,719	—	—	14,000	0
Kensington and Chelsea	22,925	205,928	—	—	12,500	0
Lambeth	59,000	467,436	—	—	12,000	159,824
Lewisham	59,000	728,041	—	—	21,000	0
Southwark	72,250	730,384	—	—	34,000	33,920
Tower Hamlets	59,345	997,653	—	—	21,000	190,960
Wandsworth	15,000	51,857	—	—	31,000	379,400
Westminster	24,000	443,713	—	—	0	85,904
Southampton	16,000	0	—	—	0	0

£

Local education authority	Specialist Schools (Capital)	Qualifications	Work Related Learning at Key Stage 4	Enterprise Learning	Pupil Learning Credits	Fresh Start
1997–98						
City of London	—	0	—	—	—	—
Camden	—	52,560	—	—	—	—
Greenwich	—	76,200	—	—	—	—
Hackney	—	20,280	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	38,460	—	—	—	—
Islington	—	31,200	—	—	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	—	21,480	—	—	—	—
Lambeth	—	21,240	—	—	—	—
Lewisham	—	53,580	—	—	—	—
Southwark	—	29,280	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	—	39,120	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth	—	27,840	—	—	—	—
Westminster	—	49,680	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	3,720	—	—	—	—
1998–99						
City of London	—	0	0	—	—	—
Camden	—	46,588	23,095	—	—	—
Greenwich	—	94,457	24,875	—	—	—
Hackney	—	19,155	15,000	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	40,723	0	—	—	—
Islington	—	53,889	0	—	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	—	23,351	0	—	—	—
Lambeth	—	36,684	45,721	—	—	—
Lewisham	—	69,430	0	—	—	—
Southwark	—	33,704	50,000	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	—	34,899	24,875	—	—	—
Wandsworth	—	31,214	24,750	—	—	—
Westminster	—	50,567	24,800	—	—	—
Southampton		17,831	0	—	—	—
1999–2000						
City of London	—	0	0	—	—	—
Camden	—	51,591	17,322	—	—	—
Greenwich	—	49,225	18,717	—	—	—
Hackney	—	15,232	15,507	—	—	—

£

Local education authority	Specialist Schools (Capital)	Qualifications	Work Related Learning at Key Stage 4	Enterprise Learning	Pupil Learning Credits	Fresh Start
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	36,898	18,404	—	—	—
Islington	—	22,246	18,750	—	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	—	9,380	0	—	—	—
Lambeth	—	23,989	52,126	—	—	—
Lewisham	—	53,873	18,750	—	—	—
Southwark	—	13,447	18,750	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	—	33,411	18,750	—	—	—
Wandsworth	—	31,045	18,750	—	—	—
Westminster	—	34,573	18,750	—	—	—
Southampton	—	8,176	18,750	—	—	—

£

Local education authority	Fresh Start (Capital)	London Challenge	Golden Hellos	School Improvement/ Targeted Improvement	Total for year
1997–98					
City of London	—	—	—	—	0
Camden	—	—	—	—	181,060
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	214,300
Hackney	—	—	—	—	67,780
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	38,460
Islington	—	—	—	—	31,200
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—	—	21,480
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	21,240
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	53,580
Southwark	—	—	—	—	106,980
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	105,520
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	77,940
Westminster	—	—	—	—	49,680
Southampton	—	—	—	—	3,720
1998–99					
City of London	—	—	—	—	0
Camden	—	—	—	—	284,683
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	349,532
Hackney	—	—	—	—	188,315
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	40,723
Islington	—	—	—	—	53,889
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—	—	23,351
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	130,825
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	69,430
Southwark	—	—	—	—	165,604
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	187,254
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	140,764
Westminster	—	—	—	—	120,487
Southampton	—	—	—	—	17,831
1999–2000					
City of London	—	—	—	—	5,005
Camden	—	—	—	—	965,765
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	1,258,344
Hackney	—	—	—	—	1,028,393
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	443,958
Islington	—	—	—	—	629,220
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—	—	250,733
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	774,375
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	880,664
Southwark	—	—	—	—	902,751
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	1,321,119
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	1,027,052
Westminster	—	—	—	—	606,940
Southampton	—	—	—	—	42,926

£

Local education authority	Key Stage 3 National Strategy	Excellence in Cities	Leadership Incentive Grant	Leading Edge	Beacon Schools	Specialist Schools
2000–01						
City of London	0	0	—	—	0	0
Camden	71,416	1,101,700	—	—	144,000	441,318
Greenwich	755,010	1,670,753	—	—	129,000	435,954
Hackney	48,779	1,132,700	—	—	75,000	391,870
Hammersmith and Fulham	15,142	733,450	—	—	73,000	74,000
Islington	103,779	1,097,600	—	—	42,000	123,136
Kensington and Chelsea	23,912	418,200	—	—	37,500	0
Lambeth	93,735	1,050,700	—	—	36,000	244,402
Lewisham	66,235	1,665,600	—	—	57,000	0
Southwark	77,872	1,582,600	—	—	72,000	0
Tower Hamlets	816,828	2,232,075	—	—	31,000	274,592
Wandsworth	38,735	1,237,350	—	—	85,000	500,250
Westminster	41,686	951,800	—	—	54,000	96,538
Southampton	28,373	0	—	—	0	0
2001–02						
City of London	0	0	—	—	0	0
Camden	207,977	1,101,700	—	—	180,000	489,663
Greenwich	721,235	1,673,879	—	—	129,000	535,242
Hackney	196,110	1,132,700	—	—	77,000	483,590
Hammersmith and Fulham	188,302	720,700	—	—	73,000	123,000
Islington	238,510	1,115,225	—	—	42,000	204,549
Kensington and Chelsea	142,414	418,200	—	—	37,500	0
Lambeth	210,457	1,013,200	—	—	36,000	294,954
Lewisham	237,037	1,720,600	—	—	70,000	0
Southwark	248,051	1,582,600	—	—	110,000	136,456
Tower Hamlets	778,495	2,207,800	—	—	31,000	413,138
Wandsworth	199,830	1,278,600	—	—	96,000	591,207
Westminster	184,582	951,800	—	—	81,000	169,816
Southampton	243,604	0	—	—	0	0
2002–03						
City of London	0	0	—	—	0	0
Camden	385,696	1,242,227	—	—	197,000	495,567
Greenwich	547,210	1,794,851	—	—	143,000	626,331
Hackney	372,899	1,209,179	—	—	78,000	595,641
Hammersmith and Fulham	356,098	781,588	—	—	76,000	123,000
Islington	370,299	1,200,702	—	—	44,000	205,164
Kensington and Chelsea	293,438	473,008	—	—	63,500	42,624
Lambeth	393,704	1,094,666	—	—	63,000	299,874
Lewisham	420,084	1,745,369	—	—	78,000	100,000
Southwark	428,092	1,796,620	—	—	155,200	348,524
Tower Hamlets	472,103	2,373,601	—	—	36,000	493,192
Wandsworth	384,911	1,318,483	—	—	98,000	610,769
Westminster	346,686	1,018,127	—	—	81,000	295,646
Southampton	432,881	0	—	—	0	74,000

£

Local education authority	Specialist Schools (Capital)	Qualifications	Work Related Learning at Key Stage 4	Enterprise Learning	Pupil Learning Credits	Fresh Start
2000–01						
City of London	—	0	—	—	—	0
Camden	—	48,273	—	—	—	0
Greenwich	—	48,799	—	—	—	0
Hackney	—	16,638	—	—	—	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	36,893	—	—	—	0
Islington	—	22,884	—	—	—	275,000
Kensington and Chelsea	—	11,442	—	—	—	0
Lambeth	—	23,410	—	—	—	0
Lewisham	—	50,376	—	—	—	52,029

£

Local education authority	Specialist Schools (Capital)	Qualifications	Work Related Learning at Key Stage 4	Enterprise Learning	Pupil Learning Credits	Fresh Start
Southwark	—	13,545	—	—	—	0
Tower Hamlets	—	36,[illegible]3	—	—	—	0
Wandsworth	—	3[illegible]7	—	—	—	0
Westminster	—	36,893	—	—	—	0
Southampton	—	8,876	—	—	—	0
2001–02						
City of London	0	0	—	—	0	0
Camden	0	4,948	—	—	236,588	0
Greenwich	0	6,927	—	—	408,755	0
Hackney	100,000	4,453	—	—	476,620	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	3,958	—	—	292,183	0
Islington	0	4,453	—	—	474,414	255,000
Kensington and Chelsea	0	1,979	—	—	84,496	0
Lambeth	0	4,948	—	—	412,145	0
Lewisham	0	6,432	—	—	494,542	275,000
Southwark	100,000	5,937	—	—	781,612	0
Tower Hamlets	100,000	7,422	—	—	1,361,672	0
Wandsworth	0	4,453	—	—	188,581	0
Westminster	100,000	3,958	—	—	232,713	0
Southampton	0	6,927	—	—	0	0
2002–03						
City of London	0	0	—	—	0	0
Camden	0	4,426	—	—	318,170	0
Greenwich	0	6,197	—	—	549,705	0
Hackney	0	3,984	—	—	640,972	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	3,541	—	—	392,936	0
Islington	0	3,984	—	—	638,005	485,000
Kensington and Chelsea	0	1,771	—	—	113,632	0
Lambeth	0	4,426	—	—	554,264	0
Lewisham	0	5,754	—	—	597,112	0
Southwark	100,000	5,754	—	—	1,051,134	0
Tower Hamlets	100,000	6,639	—	—	1,831,215	0
Wandsworth	0	3,984	—	—	253,610	0
Westminster	0	3,541	—	—	312,959	0
Southampton	100,000	6,197	—	—	0	0

£

Local education authority	Fresh Start (Capital)	London Challenge	Golden Hellos	School Improvement/ Targeted Improvement	Total for year
2000–01					
City of London	0	—	0	—	0
Camden	0	—	11,002	—	1,817,709
Greenwich	0	—	0	—	3,039,516
Hackney	0	—	8,220	—	1,673,207
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	—	11,220	—	943,705
Islington	0	—	2,702	—	1,667,101
Kensington and Chelsea	0	—	13,650	—	504,704
Lambeth	0	—	2,500	—	1,450,747
Lewisham	65,000	—	19,504	—	1,975,744
Southwark	0	—	0	—	1,746,017
Tower Hamlets	0	—	7,500	—	3,398,888
Wandsworth	0	—	0	—	1,894,022
Westminster	0	—	0	—	1,180,917
Southampton	0	—	44,117	—	81,366
2001–02					
City of London	0	—	0	0	0
Camden	0	—	26,022	46,000	2,292,898
Greenwich	0	—	0	21,000	3,496,038
Hackney	0	—	0	17,500	2,487,973
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	—	0	177,000	1,578,143

£

Local education authority	Fresh Start (Capital)	London Challenge	Golden Hellos	School Improvement/ Targeted Improvement	Total for year
Islington	700,000	—	8,862	58,000	3,101,013
Kensington and Chelsea	0	—	0	0	684,589
Lambeth	0	—	0	16,500	1,988,204
Lewisham	20,000	—	0	28,000	2,851,611
Southwark	0	—	0	92,500	3,057,156
Tower Hamlets	0	—	7,079	87,000	4,993,606
Wandsworth	0	—	37,500	14,000	2,410,171
Westminster	0	—	0	16,500	1,740,369
Southampton	0	—	0	14,000	264,531
2002–03					
City of London	—	—	32,038	0	32,038
Camden	—	—	160,191	140,250	2,943,527
Greenwich	—	—	446,743	273,942	4,387,979
Hackney	—	—	309,702	194,692	3,405,069
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	245,626	277,000	2,255,789
Islington	—	—	138,832	229,620	3,315,606
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	138,832	2,000	1,128,805
Lambeth	—	—	96,115	176,500	2,682,549
Lewisham	—	—	299,023	502,000	3,747,342
Southwark	—	—	256,306	460,750	4,602,380
Tower Hamlets	—	—	465,855	325,371	6,103,976
Wandsworth	—	—	245,626	137,500	3,052,883
Westminster	—	—	128,153	131,800	2,317,912
Southampton	—		170,870	314,000	1,097,948

£

Local education authority	Key Stage 3 National Strategy	Excellence in Cities	Leadership Incentive Grant	Leading Edge	Beacon Schools	Specialist Schools
2003–04						
City of London	500	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	473,883	1,878,129	1,125,000	46,000	135,500	617,140
Greenwich	629,339	3,161,448	1,750,000	0	152,000	751,597
Hackney	519,081	2,055,922	1,125,000	0	78,000	747,352
Hammersmith and Fulham	473,735	1,314,399	1,000,000	0	78,000	196,835
Islington	528,563	2,381,203	1,125,000	0	45,000	297,181
Kensington and Chelsea	393,485	889,300	500,000	0	76,500	155,064
Lambeth	502,234	1,759,780	1,250,000	0	76,500	432,618
Lewisham	582,394	3,556,588	1,500,000	0	83,500	211,014
Southwark	609,676	2,752,892	1,625,000	49,000	92,000	496,768
Tower Hamlets	667,689	3,650,228	2,000,000	130,000	0	692,818
Wandsworth	521,481	1,841,970	1,125,000	0	101,000	767,530
Westminster	460,687	1,065,504	1,000,000	0	83,000	381,412
Southampton	575,840	0	625,000	0	0	315,152
2004–05						
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	477,643	1,879,133	1,170,000	60,000	97,500	788,652
Greenwich	687,260	3,194,667	1,820,000	0	129,000	875,753
Hackney	494,815	2,268,056	1,094,167	0	51,000	768,096
Hammersmith and Fulham	456,012	1,401,983	1,040,000	0	78,000	289,790
Islington	523,894	2,483,301	1,170,000	120,000	15,000	507,050
Kensington and Chelsea	379,009	716,872	520,000	0	76,500	232,276
Lambeth	524,275	1,995,001	1,300,000	0	76,500	641,236
Lewisham	641,621	3,844,622	1,560,000	0	57,000	553,570
Southwark	641,749	3,214,572	1,690,000	100,000	27,000	636,204
Tower Hamlets	655,941	3,762,326	2,080,000	181,000	0	747,278
Wandsworth	595,125	1,915,649	1,170,000	40,000	77,000	926,156
Westminster	440,701	1,118,524	1,040,000	0	28,000	417,596
Southampton	582,035	0	910,000	0	0	737,018

£

	Specialist Schools (Capital)	Qualifications	Work Related Learning at Key Stage 4	Enterprise Learning	Pupil Learning Credits	Fresh Start
2003–04						
City of London	0	—	—	0	—	0
Camden	0	—	—	5,300	—	0
Greenwich	0	—	—	33,548	—	0
Hackney	0	—	—	185,000	—	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	—	—	0	—	0
Islington	0	—	—	0	—	235,000
Kensington and Chelsea	0	—	—	0	—	0
Lambeth	0	—	—	15,000	—	0
Lewisham	200,000	—	—	10,200	—	0
Southwark	0	—	—	30,000	—	0
Tower Hamlets	100,000	—	—	63,500	—	0
Wandsworth	100,000	—	—	16,010	—	0
Westminster	0	—	—	67,528	—	0
Southampton	100,000	—	—	0	—	0
2004–05						
City of London	0	—	—	0	—	0
Camden	200,000	—	—	0	—	0
Greenwich	0	—	—	130,000	—	0
Hackney	0	—	—	185,000	—	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	200,000	—	—	18,000	—	0
Islington	300,000	—	—	0	—	950,000
Kensington and Chelsea	0	—	—	0	—	0
Lambeth	100,000	—	—	15,000	—	0
Lewisham	300,000	—	—	10,200	—	85,000
Southwark	0	—	—	0	—	0
Tower Hamlets	0	—	—	210,500	—	0
Wandsworth	0	—	—	75,000	—	0
Westminster	0	—	—	67,828	—	0
Southampton	300,000	—	—	0	—	0

Local education authority	Fresh Start (Capital)	London Challenge	Golden Hellos	School Improvement/ Targeted Improvement	Total for year
2003–04					
City of London	0	0	0	0	500
Camden	0	264,628	76,773	16,750	4,639,103
Greenwich	0	469,070	201,724	276,100	7,424,826
Hackney	0	720,962	52,470	107,805	5,591,592
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	737,006	8,526	196,000	4,004,501
Islington	250,000	346,340	37,120	119,200	5,364,607
Kensington and Chelsea	0	86,555	0	6,000	2,106,904
Lambeth	0	196,635	0	46,000	4,278,767
Lewisham	0	440,608	90,240	66,000	6,740,544
Southwark	0	316,015	32,000	80,130	6,083,481
Tower Hamlets	0	455,763	66,332	334,563	8,160,893
Wandsworth	0	239,417	0	52,000	4,764,408
Westminster	0	203,521	44,584	55,900	3,362,136
Southampton	0	0	0	443,000	2,058,992
2004–05					
City of London	—	0	0	0	0
Camden	—	297,388	80,788	15,950	5,067,054
Greenwich	—	731,726	51,504	103,250	7,723,160
Hackney	—	1,372,292	26,594	47,500	6,307,520
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	261,626	43,720	108,500	3,897,632
Islington	—	579,113	116,000	67,500	6,831,858
Kensington and Chelsea	—	88,995	0	6,000	2,019,652
Lambeth	—	497,397	121,824	46,000	5,317,233
Lewisham	—	730,199	36,000	66,000	7,884,213

Local education authority	Fresh Start (Capital)	London Challenge	Golden Hellos	School Improvement/ Targeted Improvement	Total for year
Southwark	—	790,171	0	80,125	7,179,821
Tower Hamlets	—	539,311	105,839	68,000	8,350,195
Wandsworth	—	773,322	19,467	52,000	5,643,719
Westminster	—	325,462	71,335	56,050	3,565,496
Southampton	—	0	0	181,000	2,710,053

Notes:
'—' Indicates the grant did not exist that year.
'0' Indicates the grant did exist that year but the LEA did not receive an allocation.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list each *(a)* specialist school and *(b)* city academy in each inner London local education authority; and on what date each opened. [1744]

Jacqui Smith: There are some 79 operational specialist schools within the inner London local education authorities, together with five academies. There are a further eight schools designated for the award of specialist status from 1 September 2005. These schools are listed below:

Inner London specialist schools

Authority name	School name	Date became specialist
Camden	William Ellis School	1 September 1997
Camden	Hampstead School	1 September 1997
Camden	Parliament Hill School	1 September 1999
Camden	Acland Burghley School	1 September 2000
Camden	Haverstock School	1 September 2003
Camden	South Camden Community School	1 September 2004
Camden	La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School	1 September 2004
Hackney	Homerton College of Technology	1 September 1997
Hackney	Haggerston School	1 September 1998
Hackney	Our Lady's Convent Roman Catholic High School	1 September 1999
Hackney	Clapton Girls' Technology College	1 September 1999
Hackney	Stoke Newington School	1 September 2001
Hackney	Hackney Free and Parochial C of E Secondary School Specialist Sports College	1 September 2002
Hackney	The Skinners' Company's School for Girls	1 September 2003
Hammersmith and Fulham	Hurlingham and Chelsea Secondary School	1 September 2000
Hammersmith and Fulham	Lady Margaret School	1 September 2003
Hammersmith and Fulham	Fulham Cross Secondary School	1 September 2004
Hammersmith and Fulham	Phoenix High School	1 September 2004
Haringey	Fortismere School	1 September 1997
Haringey	Hornsey School for Girls	1 September 2002
Haringey	Highgate Wood Secondary School	1 September 2002
Haringey	St. Thomas More RC School	1 September 2002
Haringey	Gladesmore Community School	1 September 2003
Haringey	White Hart Lane Secondary School	1 September 2004
Haringey	Park View Academy	1 September 2004
Haringey	Alexandra Park School	1 September 2004
Islington	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Language College	1 September 2000
Islington	Mount Carmel RC Technology College for Girls	1 September 2000
Islington	Central Foundation Boys' School	1 September 2003
Islington	Highbury Grove School	1 September 2004
Islington	Highbury Fields School	1 September 2004
Islington	Islington Arts and Media School	1 September 2004
Kensington and Chelsea	Sion-Manning RC School for Girls	1 September 2002
Kensington and Chelsea	The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial RC School	1 September 2003
Kensington and Chelsea	Saint Thomas More RC School	1 September 2004
Lambeth	St. Martin in the Fields High School for Girls	1 September 1996
Lambeth	Charles Edward Brooke School	1 September 1998
Lambeth	Dunraven School	1 September 2000
Lambeth	Archbishop Tenison's School	1 September 2003
Lambeth	London Nautical School	1 September 2003
Lambeth	Stockwell Park School	1 September 2004
Lambeth	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls1 School	1 September 2004
Lewisham	Catford Girls' School	1 September 2003
Lewisham	Sydenham School	1 September 2003
Lewisham	Sedgehill School	1 September 2004
Lewisham	Forest Hill School	1 September 2004
Lewisham	Deptford Green School	1 September 2004
Newham	St. Bonaventure's RC School	1 September 1994
Newham	St. Angela's Ursuline Convent School	1 September 1995

Inner London specialist schools

Authority name	*School name*	*Date became specialist*
Newham	Langdon School	1 September 1998
Newham	Lister Community School	1 September 2001
Newham	Eastlea Community School	1 September 2001
Newham	Sarah Bonnell School	1 September 2003
Newham	Cumberland School	1 September 2003
Newham	Forest Gate Community School	1 September 2004
Southwark	Geoffrey Chaucer Technology College	1 September 2001
Southwark	Archbishop Michael Ramsey Technology College	1 September 2001
Southwark	St. Michael's RC School	1 September 2002
Southwark	Notre Dame Roman Catholic Girls' School	1 September 2003
Southwark	Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Secondary School	1 September 2003
Southwark	The St. Thomas the Apostle College	1 September 2004
Southwark	St. Saviour's and St. Olave's Church of England School	1 September 2004
Southwark	Waverley School	1 September 2004
Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green Technology College	1 September 1996
Tower Hamlets	St. Paul's Way Community School	1 September 1998
Tower Hamlets	Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat C of E Secondary School	1 September 2000
Tower Hamlets	Central Foundation Girls' School	1 September 2001
Tower Hamlets	Swanlea School	1 September 2002
Tower Hamlets	Oaklands School	1 September 2003
Wandsworth	Graveney School	1 September 1995
Wandsworth	Chestnut Grove School	1 September 1997
Wandsworth	Elliott School	1 September 1997
Wandsworth	Ernest Bevin College	1 September 2000
Wandsworth	Southfields Community College	1 September 2000
Wandsworth	Burntwood School	1 September 2003
Westminster	The St. Marylebone C of E School	1 September 1998
Westminster	Quintin Kynaston School	1 September 2001
Westminster	The Grey Coat Hospital	1 September 2002
Westminster	St. Augustine's C of E High School	1 September 2004

Inner London schools—Designated for specialist status

Authority name	*School name*	*Date to become specialist*
Hammersmith and Fulham	Sacred Heart High School	1 September 2005
Lambeth	Norwood School	1 September 2005
Lambeth	Lilian Baylis School	1 September 2005
Newham	Brampton Manor School	1 September 2005
Southwark	The Charter School	1 September 2005
Southwark	Kingsdale Secondary School	1 September 2005
Tower Hamlets	Stepney Green School	1 September 2005
Tower Hamlets	Langdon Park Community School	1 September 2005

Inner London academies

Authority name	*Academy name*	*Date opened as academy*
Hackney	Mossbourne Community Academy	1 September 2004
Haringey	Greig City Academy, Haringey	6 November 2002
Lambeth	Lambeth Academy	1 September 2004
Southwark	City of London Academy (Southwark)	2 June 2003
Southwark	The Academy of Peckham	3 June 2003

In-service Teacher Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department is taking to improve in-service training for teachers. [3847]

Jacqui Smith: The Government are driving up demand from teachers and schools for high-quality training by building professional development into each of the four main stages in the career ladder for teachers; and by refocusing annual teacher appraisals as teaching and learning reviews, which will identify professional development needs and effective ways of meeting them. The Teacher Training Agency will keep the supply and quality of teachers' professional development under review and where practicable, intervene to broker improvements locally.

Mathematics (Primary Schools)

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the teaching of multiplication tables in primary schools. [3148]

Jacqui Smith: The teaching of multiplication tables is an important part of the guidance offered to schools by the Primary National Strategy. One of its key objectives is that all pupils should know by heart all multiplication facts up to 10×10.

It is for schools to determine the best approaches to use to achieve this, given the individual learning needs of their pupils.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to visit Hammersmith and Fulham. [2093]

Maria Eagle: I have no plans at present to visit Hammersmith and Fulham.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to visit Coventry, South. [2787]

Maria Eagle: I have no plans at present to visit Coventry, South.

Modern Apprenticeships

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of young people started a Modern Apprenticeship by age 22 in 2004. [3051]

Jacqui Smith: 24.5 percent of young people started an Apprenticeship for the first time in 2003/04. This is the most recent assessment available.

The Department has a PSA target for at least 28 per cent. of young people to start an Apprenticeship by age 22 by 2004. This is based on starts in the 2004/05 academic year. The target outturn will be reported by December 2005.

Out-of-Hours Learning

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her estimate is of the proportion of schools that have drawn up home-school agreements as required by the School Standards Framework Act 1998. [4022]

Jacqui Smith: We expect all maintained schools to have a home-school agreement in place.

Primary Schools

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether a primary school's added value is taken into account when decisions are made regarding school closures and surplus places. [3345]

Jacqui Smith: Since 1998 decisions on the organisation of school places have been taken by local School Organisation Committees (SOCs) or, where the SOC cannot reach a unanimous decision, the schools adjudicator.

In making their decision, the SOC and schools adjudicator must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This sets out a range of factors that must be considered, including whether the proposals will improve standards, particularly at those schools which are the subject of proposals. When considering this aspect of the proposals, the SOC or the adjudicator have a range of indicators available to them including recent Ofsted reports and the autumn package of performance data which includes schools' value added measures.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will take steps to prevent the closure by Education Leeds of Miles Hill and Fir Tree primary schools. [3346]

Jacqui Smith: The responsibility for maintaining adequate and appropriate school provision rests with local authorities and Ministers have no direct involvement in decisions to reorganise schools. The Government introduced statutory procedures under the School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 to ensure that the views of local people, and those directly affected by school organisational changes, are heard. These procedures include a requirement on local authorities to consult locally and publish statutory proposals should they wish to proceed with closure, or other significant change to education provision. School Organisation Committees are independent of local authorities and Ministers, and take decisions about school closures when local objections to statutory proposals have been made. I understand that Education Leeds is currently consulting on proposals to reorganise primary school provision across the area and that further decisions will be necessary from the Council's Executive Board before the question of issuing statutory notices arises.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) when the criteria for rebuilding primary schools will be announced; [3783]

(2) whether Building Schools for the Future will be used as the template for the Department's plan to refurbish primary schools. [3784]

Jacqui Smith: In his March 2005 Budget, the Chancellor announced that in 2008–09, an additional £150 million of capital will be provided to renew primary school buildings in England, which will rise to £500 million in 2009–10. This funding is additional to the annual investment in schools of £6.3 billion which we will provide by 2006–07, and is to support our aim of rebuilding or renewing up to half of all primary schools in England in around 15 years from then.

I am still considering this programme, including issues such as criteria, and I aim to announce further details later this year. This new investment should transform primary schools, renew decayed and unsuitable buildings, and provide the wrap-around and extended school provision for our children that is at the heart of "Every Child Matters". Like Building Schools for the Future, our primary schools programme will drive reform of the primary system and improvements in educational standards, provide good places for teachers to teach and pupils to learn, which are used by the community, and which are well designed and built on time and at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

School Discipline

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will include a representative of children as a stakeholder group in the Leadership Group on Pupil Behaviour and Discipline to be chaired by Sir Alan Steer. [3081]

Jacqui Smith: There will not be a pupil representative on the group itself but the group will be receiving representations from children and young people.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what powers her Department has given to headteachers to maintain *(a)* discipline and *(b)* standards of conduct since 1997. [4095]

Jacqui Smith: Headteachers have extensive powers to make and enforce rules for pupils' behaviour, including powers to apply a wide range of sanctions up to and including exclusion from school. We have further strengthened headteachers' authority by:

reforming exclusion appeal panels to strike a better balance between the interests of the individual and those of the school as a whole; and

giving them powers to make parenting contracts with the parents of badly behaved and truanting pupils and issue penalty notices to the parents of truants.

In addition, we have given schools access to high-quality behaviour management training materials and advice from expert behaviour management consultants.

Further, the Department is working with the Home Office on the recently introduced Violent Crime Reduction Bill. Clause 35 of the Bill will provide headteachers and other members of staff with the power to search pupils for knives.

The Department recently announced a new Leadership Group to look into the problems of poor behaviour and indiscipline in schools. One of the issues that the group will cover is the possible expansion of headteachers' powers.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what definition she uses of low level disruption. [4096]

Jacqui Smith: There is no formal definition within the Department of low level disruption. The HMCI report for 2003–04 refers to 'incessant chatter, calling out, inattention and other forms of nuisance that irritate staff and interrupt learning' as 'the most common forms of misbehaviour'. Although it does not define these as low level disruption the context makes it clear that this is what is meant.

School Governance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations her Department has received on the structure of school governing bodies. [4088]

Jacqui Smith: From 1 September 2003 new arrangements allowed governing bodies to determine their own size and composition within a framework of guiding principles based on a stakeholder model. We have regular discussions with representatives of the two national organisations representing school governors.

School Independence

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria will be used to determine which schools will gain greater independence. [3856]

Jacqui Smith: The Government have set out plans for enabling all secondary schools, except those which are failing, to gain greater independence by acquiring foundation status. A failing school is a school which is subject to a warning notice from the local authority; has serious weaknesses; is in special measures; or has had its delegated budget suspended. It will be for the governing bodies of individual schools to decide whether to acquire foundation status, taking into account the views of parents and other stakeholders. The Government's manifesto contains a commitment to enable primary schools to acquire foundation status more easily, and we will set out our proposals for primary schools in due course.

School Meals

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much she plans to make available to schools in Coventry, South to improve school meals over the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [2786]

Jacqui Smith: Over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08, all maintained schools in England will receive a share of the £220 million set aside to help local education authorities and schools strengthen their support for healthy eating and to provide better quality food. Of this, £30 million each year will go to schools to help meet transitional costs involved in developing and improving their "whole school" approach to food. £30/50/50 million will go to LEAs to enable them to support schools with this process, with an emphasis on schools in deprived areas and schools starting from a low base.

The first instalment of this additional funding will be available to schools and LEAs this autumn. Further details about the distribution of both grants between individual local authorities and schools will be announced in due course.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average spending per meal per pupil for school meals was in *(a)* the London borough of Haringey and *(b)* England in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [3076]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not currently collected centrally.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when *(a)* Haringey local education authority and *(b)* schools in the London borough of Haringey council area are expected to receive extra funding to improve school meals; and if she will make a statement. [3078]

Jacqui Smith: Over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08, all maintained schools in England will receive a share of the £220 million set aside to help local education authorities and schools strengthen their support for healthy eating and to provide better quality food. Of this, £30 million each year will go to schools to

help meet transitional costs involved in developing and improving their "whole school" approach to food. £30/50/50 million will go to LEAs to enable them to support schools with this process, with an emphasis on schools in deprived areas and schools starting from a low base.

The first instalment of this additional funding will be available to schools and LEAs this autumn. Further details about the distribution of both grants between individual local authorities and schools will be announced in due course.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average spending per pupil per meal for school meals was in *(a)* England and *(b)* Tamworth in the last period for which figures are available. [3332]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not currently collected centrally.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when *(a)* Staffordshire local education authority and *(b)* schools in Tamworth are expected to receive extra funding to improve school meals. [3333]

Jacqui Smith: Over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08, all maintained schools in England will receive a share of the £220 million set aside to help local education authorities and schools strengthen their support for healthy eating and to provide better quality food. Of this, £30 million each year will go to schools to help meet transitional costs involved in developing and improving their "whole school" approach to food. £30/50/50 million will go to LEAs to enable them to support schools with this process, with an emphasis on schools in deprived areas and schools starting from a low base.

The first instalment of this additional funding will be available to schools and LEAs this autumn. Further details about the distribution of both grants between individual local authorities and schools will be announced in due course.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the expenditure on *(a)* capital equipment and alterations and *(b)* re-training necessary to meet higher nutritional standards in schools; and if she will make a statement. [3581]

Jacqui Smith: The Government are investing £5.5 billion in 2005–06, rising to £6.3 billion in 2007–08 to improve school buildings. This will include £1 billion allocated directly to schools for their priority needs. Decisions on how to prioritise investment are made locally through the asset management planning process, which should reflect government aims as well as local needs. The Building Schools for the Future programme aims to bring all secondary schools to 21st century standard, including kitchen and dining facilities. Additional funding of £650 million for primary schools has already been announced for 2008–09 and 2009–10, and further details of this programme will be announced later this year.

Every school is allocated money to improve its building each year, which can be spent on kitchen and dining facilities. Devolved Formula Capital guidance for 2005–06 makes clear the priority attached to schools making plans to provide at least one hot meal a day on the premises, and for this to be eaten in reasonable comfort in suitable dining facilities.

There are also funds specifically earmarked for the refurbishment of school kitchens in Voluntary Aided (VA) schools. This results from the reform of liabilities and funding arrangements at VA schools in 2002, when their governing bodies took on responsibility for some buildings (including kitchens) which were previously the responsibility of local education authorities.

The Secretary of State recently announced that over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08 £220 million new funding grants will be given direct to schools and local education authorities. These grants are part of a wider package to improve the quality of school meals. Decisions on spending these grants will be made at local level, but we have already made clear the importance we attach to school catering staff being given the knowledge and skills they need to deliver a healthier school meals service.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average spending per meal per pupil for school meals in the county of Durham has been in each year since 1999. [3758]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not currently collected centrally.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she will publish nutritional standards for school meals in *(a)* secondary schools, *(b)* primary schools and *(c)* nurseries; and whether she expects these standards to be enforced through legislation. [4005]

Jacqui Smith: An expert panel has been convened to advise the Government on how best to meet their commitment in the Public Health White Paper to improve school food, through the revision of school meals standards. The panel has been asked to produce draft minimum standards to be rolled out to secondary schools from September 2005, with those for primary schools following shortly afterwards. The final version of the standards will become mandatory from September 2006. We are currently considering whether nursery school standards should be similarly revised.

Once the school lunch standards have been considered, the panel will then set about looking at how the standards could apply to other food and drink on school premises e.g. vending machines and tuck shops. Any extended standards will need to be enshrined in regulations as are the current standards.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she will publish details of the formulae for distributing to *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* schools the funding to improve school meals announced on 30 March. [4101]

Jacqui Smith: Over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08, all maintained schools in England will receive a share of the £220 million set aside to help local education authorities and schools strengthen their support for healthy eating and to provide better quality food. Of this, £30 million each year will go to schools to help meet transitional costs involved in developing

and improving their "whole school" approach to food. £30/50/50 million will go to LEAs to enable them to support schools with this process, with an emphasis on schools in deprived areas and schools starting from a low base.

The first instalment of this additional funding will be available to schools and LEAs this autumn. Further details about the distribution of both grants between individual local authorities and schools will be announced over the summer.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria are used for allocating capital funding to *(a)* build and *(b)* refit school kitchens. [4102]

Jacqui Smith: The Government are investing £5.5 billion in 2005–06, rising to £6.3 billion in 2007–08 to improve school buildings, including kitchen and dining facilities. Much of this funding is allocated to schools and authorities by needs-related formula. Decisions on how to prioritise investment are made locally through the asset management planning process, which should reflect Government aims as well as local needs, based on a survey of all school buildings.

The Building Schools for the Future programme aims to bring all secondary schools to 21st century standard, including kitchen and dining facilities. Additional funding of £650 million for primary schools has already been announced for 2008–09 and 2009–10, and further details of this programme will be announced later this year.

By 2006–07, school funding will include £1 billion allocated directly to schools for their priority needs, which can be spent on kitchen and dining facilities. Our current guidance on schools' devolved formula capital makes clear the priority attached to schools making plans to provide at least one hot meal a day on the premises, and for this to be eaten in reasonable comfort in suitable dining facilities.

There are also funds specifically earmarked for the refurbishment of school kitchens in voluntary Aided (VA) schools. This results from the reform of liabilities and funding arrangements at VA schools in 2002, when their governing bodies took on responsibility for some buildings (including kitchens) which were previously the responsibility of local education authorities.

School Places (Staffordshire)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures she plans to take to assist parents who fail to get their children into any of their chosen schools in Staffordshire; and if she will make a statement. [3331]

Jacqui Smith: 98 per cent. of parents applying for Staffordshire primary schools, and 95 per cent. applying for secondary schools were allocated their most preferred school. All parents have been offered a school place. Parents who are not satisfied have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. This gives them an important opportunity to have their case heard by an independent body who will consider objectively the evidence from the admission authority and the parents before reaching a final decision.

School Sport

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 345–6W, on school sport, *(a)* what percentage of schools in a school sport partnership responded to the survey and *(b)* what percentage of schools are in a school sport partnership. [3642]

Jacqui Smith: At the time that the 2003/04 survey was conducted 8,105 schools, 34 per cent. of all schools in England, were within a school sport partnership. In total, 6,547 schools took part in the survey, which represents a high 81 per cent. response rate.

School Support Staff

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action she proposes to take to broaden the range of support staff working in schools. [3848]

Jacqui Smith: More support staff undertaking a wider range of tasks and responsibilities in schools is one of the key components of school work force reform. The importance of the role of support staff is illustrated by the range of partners that signed the National Agreement on Raising Standards and Tackling Workload. There are now over 263,000 full time equivalent support staff in England, an increase of almost 130,000 since 1997.

School Transport

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will provide additional funds for the provision of school transport to Herefordshire council; and if she will make a statement. [3212]

Jacqui Smith: The Secretary of State has no plans to provide additional funds to Herefordshire council for the provision of school transport.

In the 2005–06 Education Formula Spending Share (EPS) settlement, Herefordshire's LEA allocation was £12.8 million: 14.5 per cent. of its total EPS settlement, compared with a national average of 11.4 per cent. This was £100 per resident pupil (26 per cent.) more than was allocated to an average LEA in 2005–06, due to the rural nature of the county.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment she has made of the trial Yellow School Bus schemes; and if she will make a statement; [3213]

(2) what plans she has to widen trial areas for Yellow School buses; if she will establish a national school bus scheme; and if she will make a statement. [3214]

Jacqui Smith: The Department for Education and Skills is currently considering options for taking forward the Government's commitment to support innovation in home to school transport.

A small number of local authorities operate limited yellow bus schemes for home to school transport. The Department for Transport conducted an evaluation of these schemes in 2003, which suggested that well-designed dedicated bus schemes can help reduce car dependency for the journey to school. The Department

for Transport has provided £18.7 million to support a large-scale pilot of yellow buses in West Yorkshire. The first phase of this pilot started in autumn 2004, and it will be extended in 2005 and again in 2006. DfT will be working with West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to evaluate the impact of this large scale pilot.

Schools (Special Measures)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools placed in special measures by Ofsted were situated within the most deprived 20 per cent. of wards according to the Government's index of deprivation in each of the past 10 years. [3222]

Jacqui Smith: My Department is collating the information requested and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible, and place a copy in the Library.

Schools Funding

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the per capita pupil funding in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) the London borough of Haringey and (ii) Greater London (A) is in 2005–06 and (B) has been in each of the last five years; what assessment she has made of differences between the figures; and if she will make a statement. [3077]

Jacqui Smith: The figures requested for Haringey and Greater Londonin the table. Total funding includes funding via education formula spending/standard spending assessment and revenue grants allocated at an LEA level. For comparability with previous years the real terms figures exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and the Learning and Skills Council from 2003–04. This transfer is included in the cash terms figures. The principal reason why funding for Haringey is greater than the London average is the high level of deprivation in Haringey.

Average funding per pupil (£)

	2005 to 2006 cash terms, including pensions transfer to EFS and LSC	
LEA	*Primary (3 to 10-year-olds)*	*Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)*
Haringey	4,980	6,290
London	4,690	5,720

Average funding per pupil (£)

	Real terms, excluding pensions transfer to EFS and LSC 2003–04 to 2005–06	
Haringey	*Primary (3 to 10-year-olds)*	*Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)*
2000–01	3,690	5,040
2001–02	3,970	5,380
2002–03	4,100	5,450
2003–04	4,300	5,760
2004–05	4,510	5,980
2005–06	4,680	5,920

Average funding per pupil (£)

	Real terms, excluding pensions transfer to EFS and LSC 2003 to 2004 2005 to 2006	
Greater London	*Primary (3 to 10-year-olds)*	*Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)*
2000–01	3,430	4,500
2001–02	3,640	4,800
2002–03	3,760	4,900
2003–04	4,000	5,010
2004–05	4,190	5,240
2005–06	4,400	5,370

Notes:

1. Price base: Cash terms, and Real terms at 2003–04 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 23.03.05
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education SSA/EFS settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EPS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3 to 10 and 11 to15, and exclude EMAs and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those LEAs in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004–05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004–05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006–07 and 2007–08 or 2006–07 to 2008–09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3-year-old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

2003–04, 2004–05 and 2005–06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been Status: finalised/audited.

Sex Education

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make sex and relationships education a compulsory part of the school curriculum. [3299]

Jacqui Smith: Sex and relationship education (SRE) is compulsory in all maintained secondary schools and discretionary in primary schools. Sex education is included in statutory science lessons which all pupils receive.

Parents can withdraw their child from some or all SRE lessons except those which form part of the science curriculum.

Sexually-transmitted Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to raise awareness of sexually-transmitted diseases in schools. [2954]

Maria Eagle: The Department's Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) guidance requires schools to teach about sexual health and sexually transmitted infections. Through SRE, pupils learn about sexual health and are helped to clarify their knowledge of sexually transmitted infections in order that they can negotiate safer sex and understand what is risky behaviour and what is not. Pupils should be made aware of how sexually transmitted infections can be prevented, diagnosed and treated and the range of support services available.

Special Educational Needs

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in each city academy were classed as having special educational needs on the last date for which figures are available; and what proportion of each school's intake that figure represents. [3194]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

Academies: number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs (SEN)—Position in January each year 2004 and 2005 (provisional)—England

			2004			
			Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements	
	Establishment name	LEA name	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[3]
134225	The Academy at Peckham	Southwark	44	4.5	407	41.2
134223	The King's Academy	Middlesbrough	90	8.7	222	21.4
134222	City of London Academy (Southwark)	Southwark	16	9.0	0	0.0
133769	The Business Academy Bexley	Bexley	39	4.7	420	50.2
134226	Capital City Academy	Brent	21	2.5	241	28.7
134369	West London Academy	Eating	14	1.8	234	30.0
133386	Greig City Academy, Haringey	Haringey	5	0.7	186	25.2
133697	Walsall Academy	Walsall	15	3.3	23	5.1
134224	Manchester Academy	Manchester	9	1.3	87	12.7
134221	The City Academy Bristol	Bristol City of	46	4.2	299	27.5
133768	Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough	33	2.9	333	29.6
134253	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	Nottingham	[4]	[4]	345	23.3
134693	Mossbourne Community Academy	Hackney	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
134798	London Academy	Barnet	[5]		[5]	[5]
134797	Stockley Academy	Hillingdon	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
134814	Northampton Academy	Northamptonshire	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
134815	Lambeth Academy	Lambeth	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]

			2005 (provisional)[1]			
			Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements	
	Establishment name	LEA name	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[3]
134225	The Academy at Peckham	Southwark	40	3.6	450	41.3
134223	The King's Academy	Middlesbrough	100	9.1	240	23.4
134222	City of London Academy (Southwark)	Southwark	20	6.1	50	12.7
133769	The Business Academy Bexley	Bexley	80	5.5	590	42.4
134226	Capital City Academy	Brent	20	2.2	230	24.7
134369	West London Academy	Eating	30	2.3	320	28.7
133386	Greig City Academy, Haringey	Haringey	10	0.7	180	25.4
133697	Walsall Academy	Walsall	20	2.7	30	4.8
134224	Manchester Academy	Manchester	10	1.0	100	13.3
134221	The City Academy Bristol	Bristol City of	40	3.7	270	24.3
133768	Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough	30	2.8	360	31.9
134253	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	Nottingham	[4]	[4]	420	26.3
134693	Mossbourne Community Academy	Hackney	10	4.1	40	19.3
134798	London Academy	Barnet	50	4.4	410	33.9
134797	Stockley Academy	Hillingdon	20	3.2	170	29.7
134814	Northampton Academy	Northamptonshire	30	2.7	330	26.4
134815	Lambeth Academy	Lambeth	10	6.5	20	8.2

[1] Provisional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] The number of pupils with statements of SEN expressed as a percentage of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).
[3] The number of pupils with SEN without statements expressed as a percentage of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).
[4] Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.
[5] Not applicable.
Source:
Annual Schools Census.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of secondary school students are classed as having special educational needs in each local authority which has a city academy. [3197]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs[2]—position in January each year 2004 and 2005 (provisional). Local education authority areas with at least one academy

	Maintained secondary schools							
	2004				2005 (provisional)[3]			
	Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements		Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements	
	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[5]
England	78,487	2.4	450,122	13.5	75,700	2.3	468,900	14.3
All LEAs with academies	3,535	2.3	26,440	17.4	5,163	2.3	38,023	16.6
204 Hackney	[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]	160	2.2	1,430	19.7
208 Lambeth	[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]	120	2.3	1,400	26.1
210 Southwark	331	3.3	2,838	28.3	310	3.1	2,770	26.9
302 Barnet	[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]	430	2.3	2,760	14.7
303 Bexley	363	2.0	2,504	13.9	340	1.9	2,570	14.7
304 Brent	387	2.4	2,206	13.8	320	2.0	2,090	13.0
307 Ealing	314	2.1	2,927	19.6	330	2.2	3,040	20.2
309 Haringey	285	2.5	2,760	24.6	310	2.7	2,430	21.2
312 Hillingdon	[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]	420	2.4	2,090	12.0
335 Walsall	538	2.5	2,637	12.3	460	2.2	2,730	12.9
352 Manchester	548	2.3	3,848	16.3	590	2.5	3,810	16.0
801 Bristol, City of	468	2.8	3,006	18.0	380	2.3	2,660	16.4
806 Middlesbrough	201	3.5	983	16.9	200	3.6	1,070	18.9
892 Nottingham	100	0.7	2,731	19.6	100	0.7	2,780	20.1
928 Northamptonshire	[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]	1,130	2.5	8,230	18.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Provisional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] The number of pupils with statements of SEN expressed as a percentage of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).
[5] The number of pupils with SEN without statements expressed as a percentage of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).
[6] Not applicable, no academies in the LEA.

Source:
Annual Schools Census

Specialist Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the progress of schools in acquiring specialist school status. [4091]

Jacqui Smith: To date, about 69 per cent. of all maintained secondary schools are designated as specialist schools (2,176 schools, including 24 special schools). We expect about 80 per cent. of all maintained secondary schools to be specialist by September 2006. As set out in the Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners, published in July last year, we intend that every school which is up to standard should be a specialist school.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects schools to take on a second specialism; and when she expects *(a)* to bring forward legislation and *(b)* to issue guidance on this. [4092]

Jacqui Smith: In the Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners, published in July last year, we set out our proposals for high performing specialist schools to be able to take on leading roles. There are currently 69 specialist schools with a second specialism. Legislation is not required as specialist school designation is not a statutory requirement. Details about further opportunities for specialist schools to take on a second specialism will be published in due course.

Sure Start

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many second phase Sure Start's children's centres are planned in each local authority during 2006–08; and how much funding will be provided to each local authority for this purpose. [1812]

Beverley Hughes: A total of £947 million funding has been made available to local authorities in the second phase of the children's centres programme. This comprises of £405,523,772 capital and £542,205,843 revenue. The capital allocation is to contribute to the funding of new children's centre places to be created in phase 2, whereas the revenue allocation is to fund both new and existing centres created in phases 1 and 2. Local authorities will develop their children's centres by building on existing provision such as Sure Start local programmes, neighbourhood nurseries and primary schools which have already benefited from a number of funding streams. The following table sets out the funding allocated to each local authority.

Local authority	*Total number of CCs required in 2006–08*[1]	*Total capital 2006–08, including 20 per cent London uplift*[2]	*Total revenue 2006–08 including 10 per cent London uplift*[2]
Barking and Dagenham	6	2,388,828	5,105,821
Barnet	15	3,821,802	3,082,925
Barnsley	5	1,001,970	3,463,680
Bath and NE Somerset	6	964,830	827,201
Bedfordshire	18	2,972,555	3,267,137
Bexley	8	1,568,238	2,286,878
Birmingham	43	15,307,670	25,718,111
Blackburn with Darwen	5	1,198,810	2,283,734
Blackpool	3	750,825	2,325,298
Bolton	10	3,007,975	4,041,326
Bournemouth	5	1,117,310	1,896,905
Bracknell Forest	6	1,028,445	836,341
Bradford	15	3,839,200	10,620,192

Local authority	Total number of CCs required in 2006–08 [1]	Total capital 2006–08, including 20 per cent. London uplift [2]	Total revenue 2006–08 including 10 per cent. London uplift [2]
Brent	9	2,049,714	3,842,938
Brighton and Hove	9	2,267,380	2,801,391
Bristol	14	3,629,485	5,366,977
Bromley	13	2,712,486	2,913,960
Buckinghamshire	22	3,628,945	3,252,676
Bury	8	2,034,685	2,531,485
Calderdale	9	2,347,325	2,231,737
Cambridgeshire	22	3,488,440	3,532,242
Camden	9	3,478,662	2,347,693
Cheshire	27	5,009,345	4,751,908
City of London [3]	—	—	—
Cornwall	16	3,022,960	2,532,384
County of Herefordshire	6	940,360	1,027,314
Coventry	9	2,077,055	4,506,056
Croydon	17	5,344,500	4,451,078
Cumbria	16	2,991,755	3,655,529
Darlington	2	444,090	1,002,794
Derby	8	2,169,735	2,746,118
Derbyshire	29	5,890,135	6,594,458
Devon	24	4,283,720	3,507,294
Doncaster	8	1,966,305	4,569,916
Dorset	13	2,077,090	2,129,300
Dudley	11	2,544,485	3,806,311
Durham	12	2,690,605	4,109,869
Ealing	12	3,585,480	4,859,418
East Riding of Yorkshire	10	1,436,025	2,295,874
East Sussex	18	3,575,715	2,879,147
Enfield	11	2,858,190	4,996,785
Essex	53	9,001,295	10,873,952
Gateshead	5	1,403,115	2,562,509
Gloucestershire	23	3,826,990	3,756,377
Greenwich	7	2,331,942	4,901,299
Hackney	8	4,271,454	6,552,491
Halton	3	477,295	809,168
Hammersmith and Fulham	7	2,499,168	1,656,494
Hampshire	53	9,515,160	7,958,958
Haringey	8	3,366,132	4,725,163
Harrow	9	1,012,830	1,818,542
Hartlepool	2	718,190	1,110,245
Havering	8	1,283,682	1,988,912
Hertfordshire	49	9,371,350	7,761,791
Hillingdon	12	3,297,744	2,366,595
Hounslow	11	3,647,964	3,472,361
Isle of Wight	3	409,150	1,379,321
Isles of Scilly	—	—	—
Islington	5	2,566,722	3,613,793
Kensington and Chelsea	6	1,301,292	1,378,808
Kent	52	9,134,060	10,648,341
Kingston upon Hull	7	2,273,440	2,599,548
Kingston upon Thames	7	829,920	1,190,239
Kirklees	15	3,778,855	6,714,086
Knowsley	3	681,925	2,410,783
Lambeth	10	4,146,438	6,336,245
Lancashire	40	8,130,990	10,283,537
Leeds	26	7,308,535	8,385,926
Leicester City	8	2,169,125	6,572,971
Leicestershire	24	4,104,055	3,777,122
Lewisham	9	3,044,958	5,902,008
Lincolnshire	23	4,192,565	3,423,583
Liverpool	8	2,907,975	9,025,886
Luton	8	2,151,485	3,787,873
Manchester	10	3,946,160	9,419,364
Medway	10	1,898,615	2,542,766
Merton	8	1,793,226	1,893,882
Middlesbrough	4	1,096,435	1,181,447
Milton Keynes	10	1,737,145	2,174,242
Newcastle upon Tyne	6	1,448,890	2,345,930
Newham	8	4,157,658	9,083,995
Norfolk	26	3,903,885	3,967,069
North East Lincolnshire	6	1,844,420	1,386,399
North Lincolnshire	4	806,955	1,210,277
North Somerset	7	999,235	1,219,607
North Tyneside	6	1,403,335	2,059,718
North Yorkshire	21	3,261,090	3,211,280
Northamptonshire	27	4,996,990	5,213,489
Northumberland	10	2,046,550	1,628,435
Nottingham City	7	2,476,120	4,527,426
Nottinghamshire	26	5,093,215	6,146,864
Oldham	8	2,189,620	4,071,087
Oxfordshire	25	4,314,465	4,480,780
Peterborough	6	1,458,780	1,790,517
Plymouth	7	1,667,945	2,512,798
Poole	6	1,218,555	961,301
Portsmouth	7	1,798,495	1,797,128
Reading	6	1,139,670	1,591,823
Redbridge	10	1,941,708	2,842,516
Redcar and Cleveland	4	614,895	979,244
Richmond upon Thames	9	1,141,560	1,485,168
Rochdale	8	2,372,525	2,670,073
Rotherham	8	1,836,645	4,173,631
Rutland	1	218,225	180,784
Salford	6	1,550,040	3,646,710
Sandwell	7	2,382,750	6,173,249
Sefton	9	1,817,725	2,436,913
Sheffield	18	4,749,895	5,932,118
Shropshire	10	1,833,355	1,506,545
Slough	5	922,740	1,862,463
Solihull	7	1,362,130	1,971,992
Somerset	19	3,087,485	2,897,077
South Tyneside	3	751,005	1,982,293
Southampton	8	1,887,540	2,380,347
Southend	7	1,587,465	1,933,426
Southwark	9	3,555,360	5,319,798
St. Helens	4	971,460	2,311,935
Staffordshire	32	5,760,275	5,065,655
South Gloucestershire	11	2,139,975	1,717,490
Stockport	12	2,637,190	3,134,651
Stockton-on-Tees	6	1,250,715	979,949
Stoke-on-Trent	5	1,333,265	3,343,144
Suffolk	26	4,279,960	4,564,098
Sunderland	6	1,572,125	3,704,269
Surrey	46	8,113,945	6,862,882
Sutton	8	1,585,572	1,648,579
Swindon	7	1,074,825	1,819,870
Tameside	6	1,657,750	3,236,263
Telford and Wrekin	7	1,346,770	2,178,740
Thurrock	5	786,815	2,162,756
Torbay	3	367,850	1,128,890
Tower Hamlets	6	3,090,984	5,573,446
Trafford	8	1,638,910	2,620,577
West Berkshire	6	1,164,685	945,625
Wakefield	8	1,908,270	5,207,885
Walsall	8	2,494,510	4,575,941
Waltham Forest	8	2,913,036	5,400,914
Wandsworth	13	3,734,946	2,656,529
Warrington	7	1,466,965	2,017,555
Warwickshire	20	3,244,685	3,475,765
West Sussex	30	5,478,575	4,563,728
Westminster	7	2,525,826	1,735,024
Wigan	9	2,350,235	5,882,837
Wiltshire	20	3,764,660	3,035,235
Windsor and Maidenhead	6	1,090,780	885,129
Wirral	9	2,055,330	4,700,360
Wokingham	7	1,082,650	901,730
Wolverhampton	6	1,598,730	3,678,806
Worcestershire	23	4,372,670	3,523,769
York	8	1,689,450	1,330,718
Total	1,823	405,523,772	542,205,843

[1] These are subject to negotiation if authorities with large targets wish to defer some centres to phase 3.

[2] Excluding rural uplift. Authorities with rural areas will be advised of their allocations shortly.

[3] Allocations yet to be agreed—due to the small number of children in those authorities we are working with the authorities to determine suitable targets and funding.

Synthetic Phonics

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if she will make a statement on her announcement on 3 June of an independent review into the role of synthetic phonics in teaching reading in primary schools; [3579]

(2) if she will list the people who will conduct the independent review of the role of synthetic phonics in teaching reading in primary schools headed by Mr. Jim Rose. [3580]

Jacqui Smith: The National Literacy Strategy, combined with developments in the Foundation Stage, have transformed the nature of teaching, learning and achievement in primary schools over the last seven years. Compared to 1997, around 96,000 more children each year are being helped to reach the expected reading level for their age.

The Strategy have continually evolved to ensure that it benefits from the latest developments in this area, and the time is now right to renew the literacy framework, to accelerate and build on this success. Synthetic phonics is already at the heart of early literacy teaching for every child under the Strategy, and the debate centres not on whether to teach phonics, but how to do so. As part of the renewal of the literacy framework, we have appointed Jim Rose to make recommendations on best practice in the teaching of early reading and synthetic phonics in primary schools and early years settings, covering content and pace of learning. He will also make recommendations on the best support for children with significant literacy difficulties to enable them to catch up with their peers, and the relationship between such targeted intervention programmes with synthetic phonics

Mr. Rose's recommendations will draw on an examination of both academic research and classroom best practice in schools and early years settings, as well as recent reports by the Education and Skills Select Committee, Ofsted and the Clackmannanshire study. He will provide an interim report in November 2005 and make final recommendations early in the new year. Decisions on who will work alongside him as he conducts his review will be made shortly, in agreement with Mr. Rose.

Teacher Assaults

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will introduce a national register for the recording of assaults committed against teachers by parents and pupils; and if she will make a statement. [3217]

Jacqui Smith: Schools are required to report significant injuries to staff resulting from acts of violence to the Health and Safety Executive. In addition, the data my Department collects about exclusions include a reason for each exclusion, with violence to adults as a separately-identified reason. These arrangements strike a sensible balance between gathering data to inform national policy and imposing administrative burdens on schools. It would be wrong to shift the balance towards more work for schools.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers in Tamworth have been assaulted by pupils in each year since 1997. [3330]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teacher Qualifications

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of *(a)* citizenship and *(b)* personal, social and health education teachers giving financial literacy lessons at Key Stages 3 and 4 had (i) GCSE or O level, (ii) A level and (iii) degree level qualifications in mathematics in 2003/04. [3238]

Jacqui Smith: The Information requested is not available. Information on the post A level qualification in Citizenship and PSHE for those teaching these subjects can be found in tables 24 and 25 of The Statistics of Education, School Workforce in England Volume, 2004 edition, a copy of which have been placed in the House of Commons Library. Alternatively it may be accessed at the following URL: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000443/index.shtml

It is a requirement for the attainment of qualified teacher status to have GCSE Mathematics at grade A to C or an equivalent qualification.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what qualifications are required of *(a)* citizenship and *(b)* personal, social and health education teachers giving financial literacy lessons at Key Stages (i) 3 and (ii) 4. [3239]

Jacqui Smith: A programme of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) for Citizenship teachers has been running since September 2000 to gradually grow the number of specialists in the subject; over 850 specialists will have been trained by the end of the current academic year. The ITT courses include a component on financial capability. The Department introduced a national programme for certificating effective Continuing Professional Development in PSHE in 2000, which provides the framework for teachers to improve their classroom practice in financial education. The Department is currently piloting a similar programme for citizenship teachers in three centres in England.

Truancy (Yorkshire)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in the East Riding of Yorkshire played truant from school in each of the last five years. [3584]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested on the number of pupils that missed at least a half day due to unauthorised absence in schools in the East Riding of Yorkshire LEA is as follows.

	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Maintained primary and secondary schools					
Number absent	6,184	4,641	5,761	5,750	5,104
As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	14.0	10.4	12.8	12.7	11.5
Maintained primary schools					
Number absent	2,013	1,766	1,956	1,725	1,759
As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	8.3	7.2	8.1	7.1	7.5
Maintained secondary schools					
Number absent	4,171	2,875	3,805	4,025	3,345
As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	21.0	14.3	18.3	19.2	16.0

Unauthorised absence includes other forms of absence such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

University Students

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of students admitted to university to read *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* sciences and *(c)* modern foreign languages were from (i) grammar schools, (ii) state schools and (iii) independent schools in each of the last 10 years. [1740]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable information for the intervening years is not held centrally by the Department. Although the majority of full-time undergraduates apply through UCAS, a small proportion, mostly mature students, apply direct to institutions and will therefore be excluded from the figures in the table, as will part-time students who are also not covered by UCAS application scheme.

Previous school type of accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions by subject

	Year of entry			
	1994		2004	
	Numbers	Percentage[1]	Numbers	Percentage[1]
Mathematical sciences[2]				
Grammar	905	6.3	985	5.6
Maintained schools[3]	4,820	33.2	6,920	39.0
Independent	1,135	7.8	1,055	6.0
Other[4]	7,645	52.7	8,760	49.4
Total known	14,505	100.0	17,725	100.0
Unknown	2,645	—	4,440	—
Total	17,150	—	22,165	—
Sciences[5]				
Grammar	2,875	8.6	3,005	7.2
Maintained schools[3]	13,060	39.1	19,110	45.9
Independent	4,800	14.4	4,840	11.6
Other[4]	12,650	37.9	14,690	34.8
Total known	33,385	100.0	41,650	100.0
Unknown	4,250	—	7,700	—
Total	37,635	—	49,350	—
Modern Foreign Languages[6]				
Grammar	385	10.5	510	10.4
Maintained schools[3]	1,165	32.0	1,970	40.4
Independent	1,005	27.6	1,380	28.3
Other[4]	1,085	29.8	1,015	20.8
Total known	3,635	100.0	4,875	100.0
Unknown	595	—	665	—
Total	4,230	—	5,540	—

[1] Percentages based on those students who recorded their previous school/college. Component percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.

[2] Includes mathematics, statistics, and computer science/studies.

[3] Includes former grant maintained schools.

[4] Includes students from FE sector institutions.

[5] Includes biological, veterinary and physical sciences, and combined sciences.

[6] Includes European and non-European modern languages.

Source:

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). UCAS covers all HE institutions in the UK as well as FE colleges with significant HE provision. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Tuition Fees

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the maximum level of financial support available to undergraduates at higher education institutions in England from *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high income backgrounds will be from 2006. [3100]

Bill Rammell: The level of financial support available will depend on a number of things including the level of fees being charged by the higher education institution and the circumstances of the individual student.

But, whatever their circumstances, from 2006 students will not have to pay tuition fees while they are studying. Instead, all students will be able to take out a loan to cover their fees; that loan will not be based on income.

In addition, new students with household incomes between £16,000 and £33,000 will be eligible for the new non-repayable maintenance grant of up to £2,700. Institutions wishing to charge fees of the maximum £3,000 will have to provide a minimum institutional bursary of £300 to students entitled to the full £2,700 maintenance grant; many institutions will be offering much more than this.

The arrangements for repayment of maintenance and fee loans are fair and equitable. The graduate's repayments are at zero real rate of interest, related directly to earnings and only required when earnings are greater than £15,000 per year.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was raised through student tuition fees in Hammersmith and Fulham constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2004. [3420]

Bill Rammell: Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition only if they can afford to do so. The amount of the contribution depends on family income.

The amount of private contributions to tuition fees by students from Hammersmith and Fulham, and England and Wales for academic year 2004/05 are given in the table.

Private contribution to tuition fees in Hammersmith and Fulham, and England and Wales for academic year 2004/05

Academic year 2004/05[1]	*£ million*
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.8
England and Wales	424.7

[1] Provisional (as at 8 June 2005)

Source:

Student Loans Company

Private contributions to tuition fees were introduced in 1998/99 therefore no data are available for academic year 1997/98.

Up to 2002/03, data were collected from LEAs to produce national estimates and the data collection exercise did not allow for the production of firm figures below this level; data at local education authority or regional level are therefore not available for 2001/02.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Senior Clergy

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if he will make a statement on the availability and number of qualified clergy for senior clerical positions within the Church of England. [2988]

Sir Stuart Bell: There are always clergy available for senior appointment in the Church of England. It is hard to measure the number of qualified clergy in general terms as the requirement of particular posts and its context determine what skills, attributes and experience are sought.

Residential Sales

29. **David Taylor:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what safeguards for existing tenants are sought before decisions by the Commissioners to sell the freehold of residential properties are taken. [2990]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners have reassured tenants that this is a sale of the freehold only and does not affect the terms of their tenancies.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 14 June 2005

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which her Department is responsible available on-line. [3716]

Mr. Caborn: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

British Museum Act

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will bring forward amendments to the British Museum Act 1963 following the judgment of the High Court in the case of works of art formerly owned by Arthur Feldman and now in the British Museum; and if she will make a statement. [3209]

Mr. Lammy: We are carefully considering the recent recommendation of the Spoliation Advisory Panel that legislation should be introduced to permit the return of items where possession was lost during the Nazi era. The Vice Chancellor's judgment of 27 May provides clarity in this important area and will contribute to our consideration of the Panel's recommendation.

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what value-for-money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in her Department in 2004–05. [4551]

Mr. Caborn: DCMS will complete its assessment of the value-for-money procurement savings in July. Last year's savings for DCMS were £5.88 million and this year's return is expected to be a similar figure. I will write to the hon. Member with the 2004–05 savings as soon as they are available. Civil service posts in DCMS increased by 4.6 full-time equivalents in 2004–05.

Licensing Act

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications have been received to date by Easington district council from licensees for a new licence under the Licensing Act 2003; and what percentage of licences held this represents. [3800]

James Purnell: Information on the number of applications for converting existing licences received to date by Easington district council licensing authorities under the Licensing Act 2003 and the percentage this represents of existing licences is not kept by my Department. Information on local licence application levels should be available from the respective district or borough council. Licensing authorities are the main local authorities responsible for administering and enforcing the new regime that comes into effect in November.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely consequences of the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 on the income of village halls; and if she will make a statement. [2654]

James Purnell *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* There is no cost to village halls applying for a premises licence for the provision of public entertainment. Only where they wish to add the supply of alcohol to their licence will the vast majority pay no more than £190 on initial application and £180 as an annual fee. For many halls the fees would be £100 and £70 respectively. Once granted a premises licence, village halls will have the flexibility to provide licensable activities on their premises to a wide variety of users.

London Eye

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the effect of the London Eye on the 2012 Olympic bid. [1230]

Tessa Jowell: The London Eye is now a much loved and iconic London landmark, as such it is a first class tourist attraction—all of which helps to support London's bid for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

National Lottery

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much money in each year has remained unclaimed since the National Lottery started; and what has happened to this money. [4584]

Mr. Caborn: All prizes that are unclaimed 180 days after the date of the relevant draw are passed, together with any interest accrued, to the National Lottery Distribution Fund. The amount passed in every year, in £ million, since the National Lottery began is:

	£ million
1994–95	0
1995–96	34
1996–97	48
1997–98	74
1998–99	78
1999–2000	71
2000–01	76

	£ million
2001–02	81
2002–03	85
2003–04	73
2004–05	100

Sport Administration Costs

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total administration costs of *(a)* the Sport and Recreation Division of her Department, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* regional sports boards and *(d)* county sports partnerships were in 2004–05 (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of the overall budget of each. [3606]

Mr. Caborn: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Administration costs 2004–05 (£000)	*As a percentage of budget allocated for each*
DCMS Sports Directorate[1]	1,325	942
Sport England[2]	24,782	99.11
Regional Sports Boards	8,692	89.82
County Sports Partnerships	6,850	100.00

[1] Includes costs of Sports Division and Director of Sport (Group Head). Includes pay and other general administration.
[2] Excludes the direct costs of running National Centres and Regional Offices

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Agents

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures UK Trade and Investment staff take to ensure that the lists of agents they provide to British companies include only agents committed to non-bribery principles. [2557]

Ian Pearson: The onus remains with UKTI customers to satisfy themselves as to the business standing and integrity of potential agents.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many agents were removed from the list of agents provided by UK Trade and Investment to British companies, in each year since 2000; and from which countries. [2345]

Ian Pearson: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) do not hold a central list of agents or any other potential business partners. Bespoke lists of agents and other potential business partners can be provided direct to UKTI customers at their request.

Arms Sales (Indonesia)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action is being taken to prosecute Alvis plc for the payment made to Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana in order to secure the contract from the Indonesian Government to supply Scorpion armoured fighting vehicles; and if he make a full statement. [557]

Ian Pearson: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) provided support for the contract referred to. ECGD does not have investigatory powers, but I understand that the above matter has been referred to the Serious Fraud Office, which has primary responsibility for deciding whether such allegations should be investigated.

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much his Department gave in grant to Citizens Advice Bureaux in each London borough in the last year for which figures are available. [2533]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not provide grant to local Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Departmental Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3313]

Alan Johnson: DTI has eight trade union learning representatives.

Inward Investment

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of levels of inward investment into the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [1461]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* On 29 June I will be making a written statement to the House on inward investment into the United Kingdom in 2004–05 updating the one that was laid before the House last July. A copy of UKTI's 2004–05 annual report on UK inward investment will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Patio Heaters

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of outdoor patio heaters imported into the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [4526]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not available because the system of classification used to record trade does not separately identify outdoor patio heaters.

Race Relations Amendment Act

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of employees in the agencies in his Department are members of ethnic minorities that are *(a)* included and *(b)* not included in the schedule for the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000. [978]

Alan Johnson: DTI agencies included in the schedule for the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 (category a) are: Patent Office, Companies House, Employment Tribunals Service, Small Business Service, Insolvency Service and National Weights and Measures Laboratory.

There are no DTI agencies excluded from the schedule for the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 (category b).

DTI HQ does not have access to the data requested. Agencies listed under *(a)* were asked to supply the data requested, and have responded with the following information:

As part of the schedule for the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, the following percentages of staff have registered themselves as from an ethnic minority background:

	Percentage
Patent Office	4
Companies House	4
Employment Tribunals Service	21.2
Small Business Service	7
Insolvency Service	15
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	*0

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by councils on clearing abandoned vehicles in each year since 1997. [2414]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures on local authority expenditure on abandoned vehicles are not recorded centrally. However, the Defra Abandoned Vehicle Survey for 2002–03 estimated that the direct costs to local authorities of investigating, removing and disposing of abandoned vehicles was £25 million.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of abandoned vehicles were investigated within *(a)* 24 hours, *(b)* a week and *(c)* a month of a complaint being registered in the last year for which figures are available. [2426]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government has introduced a new Best Value Performance Indicator 218 on abandoned vehicles. From April this year, local authorities are required to record and supply data on both:

(a) the percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours of notification and

(b) the percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours of the local authority becoming legally entitled to do so

Figures for 2005–06 will be available later in 2006.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned vehicles have been identified in each year since 1997; and how many have been cleared. [2427]

Mr. Bradshaw: Estimates for abandoned vehicles removed and destroyed were first compiled in the Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey for 2000–01.

Annual results for England are listed in the table.

	Number
2000–01	223,539
2001–02	284,421
2002–03	291,710
2003–04	221,424

Angling Revenues

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what use is made of revenues raised from National Rod Licence fees. [2915]

Mr. Bradshaw: All rod licence revenue is used to protect, conserve and enhance freshwater fisheries and other salmonid fisheries. Actions which this revenue funds include enforcement activities, monitoring, research and development, and habitat improvement works. The Environment Agency also uses the revenue to promote the social and economic benefits of fisheries. The Government also fund EA fisheries activities in the order of £6.2 million per year.

Auction Marts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of auction marts. [3639]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Auction marts continue to be important for livestock farmers, particularly for store and breeding stock. As part of the wider livestock and meat marketing chain they are not immune from change and evolution, but this can have positive impact too. New and/or redeveloped markets will include the one now being built at Cirencester which is part funded by the Defra Rural Enterprise Scheme. In other markets there may be opportunities for business diversification. We continue to monitor the network of auction markets, and remain in regular contact with the Livestock Auctioneers Association and the Meat and Livestock Commission. The Red Meat Industry Forum, with significant contributory Government funding, is working on finding ways of helping industry improve the competitiveness of the red meat supply chain. This includes livestock auction markets.

Avian Flu

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what precautionary measures have been put in place to prevent the spread of the avian influenza virus H5N1 to the United Kingdom. [2270]

Mr. Bradshaw: If there is an outbreak of disease in an exporting country Defra takes appropriate emergency safeguard action in accordance with Community legislation. This may include a ban on imports of animals and animal products from all, or parts, of that country.

Safeguard measures in relation to Avian influenza (AI) were put in place for effected Asian countries in January 2004 and have since been extended to 30 September 2005. Restrictions were placed on South African imports in August 2004 and have now been extended to 31 December 2005.

The situation in affected countries is kept under review and controls on imports are modified in line with community decisions. Safeguard measures are currently in place to ban or restrict imports of animals, meat and other products of susceptible species in respect of highly pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, including the territory of Hong Kong, North Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and South Africa.

All poultry meat and birds imported into the EU from third countries must enter at designated border inspection posts where they are subject to veterinary inspections. All consignments are subject to documentary and identity checks. These checks ensure that these import conditions are met.

From the time of import, live poultry or eggs once hatched, must be held in quarantine for six weeks in an approved establishment to ensure that they are not carrying disease.

Canada Geese

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the impact of Canada geese on *(a)* the environment and *(b)* other forms of wildlife. [3401]

Jim Knight: Canada geese were introduced to this country to add interest to parks and are another example of unwise introductions. They are large aggressive birds, now resident and breeding in Britain. The population estimate is 96,000 in England, with a suggested annual increase in population of 10 per cent. Its size and aggressive nature enables it to dominate other native species in terms of feeding and nest site selection, which can result in other species being unable to breed. There are also reports that breeding success of other birds is affected by trampling of nests, eggs and young. The Canada goose can also interbreed with other goose species, resulting in hybrids.

Large congregations of Canada geese in parks can lead to local problems of bank erosion, fouling and intimidation of other park users, both human and wildlife.

Being resident, Canada geese may extend the period during which damage to agricultural crops may occur which can lead to conflict with farmers.

The Canada goose is not a rare species, and the numbers in England are not significant in terms of the world population.

Genetically Modified Maize

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research she has evaluated on the effects of the consumption of genetically modified maize MON863 on the health of *(a)* rats and *(b)* humans. [2011]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The advisory committee on animal feedingstuffs examined a rat feeding study concerning MON863 and concluded that it did not indicate any adverse effects. The European Food Safety Authority also reviewed the application for genetically modified maize MON863, including a critique of a rat feeding study, and concluded that MON863 would not have any adverse affect on human health.

There have been no studies carried out on the effects on humans of consuming MON863 maize.

Incinerators

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of incinerators that will be constructed over the next five years in *(a)* England and *(b)* South East England. [3381]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no data held centrally on the estimated number of incinerators that will be built in future years. The choice of waste management options is for individual local authorities to make.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the private finance initiative and public private partnership projects her Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2369]

Jim Knight: The core Department is currently undertaking one PFI project to provide office facilities at Brooklands Avenue in Cambridge. This project is operational.

There are, however, a number of other PFI and PPP projects being undertaken by Defra's sponsored public bodies ie its Executive agencies, NDPBs, and public corporations. The details are listed as follows:

Organisation	*Description*	*Category*	*Status*
Environment Agency	Broadland (Norfolk) Flood Defence Scheme	PFI	Operational
Environment Agency	Pevensey Bay Sea Defences	PFI	Operational
Countryside Agency	'SPIRIT IT' System	PFI	Operational
British Waterways	Pub Partnership—development and management of canal side pub estate	PPP	Partnership is operational
British Waterways	'Isis'—development of river and canal side property	PPP	Partnership is operational
British Waterways	Wood Wharf (London) redevelopment	PPP	Partnership is operational
British Waterways	Watergrid—water supply network	PPP	Partnership is dormant

In addition, although they are not Defra projects, the Department also provides support in the form of PFI credits to allow local authorities to enter into PFI contracts to provide waste recycling and management facilities. Information about these local authority projects can be found on the database of approved projects on HM Treasury's website.

Recycling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage

of *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* industrial waste has been recycled in the UK in each year since 2001. [1076]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Estimates of the percentage of UK household waste recycled or composted are shown in the table:

Household waste recycled or composted

	Percentage
2001–02	12
2002–03	14
2003–04	17

(a) and *(b)* Estimates based on an Environment Agency survey of England and Wales in 1998–99 show that 45 per cent. of industrial and 26 per cent. of commercial waste was recycled or reused. Results from a further survey for 2002–03 will be published shortly.

UK Presidency (EU)

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what communication activities are planned in relation to the policy areas covered by her Department during the UK presidency of the EU; and what budget has been allocated for these activities. [1657]

Jim Knight: External communications activity for the presidency is being co-ordinated centrally by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Defra is engaged with FCO and other Government Departments on presidency communications activity.

Defra's presidency communications activity has been developed to be sustainable and accessible and to address both public interest in the EU in general and the priorities, programme and progress of Defra's parts of the EU agenda.

Ministers will undertake a range of activities, including briefings for media and stakeholders, and explanatory information will be placed in public areas of Defra buildings. Currently we have £20,000 set aside for publicity materials. We will also work with stakeholders, other Departments and the Commission on joined-up communications activity as appropriate.

Whales

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what further steps she intends to take following the decision of the Japanese authorities to *(a)* increase the quota of minke whale taking and *(b)* begin hunting the humpback whale. [3129]

Mr. Bradshaw: With colleagues from 14 other countries HM ambassador in Tokyo delivered a Demarche to the Government of Japan on 2 June 2005, protesting in the strongest terms on Japan's plans to expand its so-called 'scientific' whaling activities. We are working to ensure that the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee takes no action which could possibly be read by Japan as an 'endorsement' of their plans, and will make further protest during the annual meeting of the Commission which takes place later this month.

TRANSPORT

Car Sharing

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment the Government have made of the effectiveness of car-sharing within schools as a means of reducing congestion associated with the school run. [1675]

Ms Buck: The Government want to make it possible for more children to walk, cycle or use the bus to get to and from school. Where these are not feasible, we would like as many parents as possible to have the option of car-sharing. Many families already make their own informal arrangements but formal car-sharing schemes for school journeys are only just starting to be developed.

The impact of car-sharing on traffic levels is included in a major research report published by the Department last July—"Smarter Choices—Changing the Way We Travel". Based on the evidence provided by this report, we are encouraging local authorities to consider including initiatives such as car-sharing in their new transport strategies.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding has been given by his Department, and its predecessors, in each year since 1997 towards the *(a)* development and *(b)* promotion of (i) car clubs, (ii) car sharing and (iii) the Carplus scheme; [1677]

(2) what funding has been made available to local authorities to promote *(a)* car sharing, *(b)* car clubs and *(c)* education programmes to promote walking and cycling in each year since 1997. [1781]

Ms Buck: The information requested is as follows.

Car Clubs and Car Sharing

In 1999, the Department contributed setting up costs of £150,000 to establish the Edinburgh City Car Club. The Department has also supported the CarPlus advisory service with the following grants:

	£
1999	37,000
2000	38,000
2001	103,000
2002	53,000
2003	60,000
2004	60,000

CarPlus have requested further funding for 2005–06. This is currently under consideration.

Education Programmes

In general, revenue funding provided to local authorities is not dedicated for specific purposes. We did, however, provide some ring-fenced funding to local authorities through our bursary scheme for the

employment of school and workplace travel plan co-ordinators at a cost of £3 million per annum for three years from April 2001 to March 2004. Both car-sharing and car clubs are measures that could be included in travel plans.

Since October 2003, the focus has been on promoting school travel plans through the Travel to School Initiative. This is a joint project with the Department for Education and Skills. A budget of £50 million has been allocated for the two years up to March 2006. The aim is for every school in England to have a travel plan by the end of the decade and through this to boost walking, cycling and bus use. The funding is being used to support around 250 local-authority based school travel advisers to assist schools with developing their plans. There are also capital grants for schools with approved travel plans to pay for infrastructure such as improved cycle storage facilities. This is typically £5,000 for a junior school and £10,000 for a senior. £14 million was spent on these capital grants in 2004–05 and £20 million is expected for this and each subsequent year up to and including 2008.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the total reduction in vehicle kilometres that would result from a *(a)* 10 per cent. *(b)* 20 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. increase in average vehicle occupancy. [1678]

Ms Buck: It is estimated that the decrease in vehicle kilometres for cars, taxis and vans as a result of an increase in vehicle occupancy would be as follows:

		Vehicle kilometres by cars, taxis and vans (billion)		
Increase in vehicle occupancy	*Resultant percentage change in vehicle kilometres*	*Current (2003)*	*Following decrease in occupancy*	*Change*
10 per cent.	-9	451	410	41
20 per cent.	-17	451	376	75
50 per cent.	-33	451	301	150

This assumes that the occupancy increase is a result of increased trip sharing and therefore fewer trips, and not, for example, from a shift of passengers from other modes of transport. It is also assumed that an increase in occupancy does not result in an increase in trip length (i.e. passenger kilometre figures stay fixed).

Clive Soley

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the recent occasions on which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials of the Department have met Clive Soley on departmental business. [2291]

Ms Buck: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport met Clive Soley at the Future Heathrow event on Monday 23 May. No other Department for Transport Ministers have recently met Clive Soley on departmental business. It is not known whether any officials from the Department for Transport may have met Clive Soley recently since no central record is kept of meetings officials attend.

Commercial Pilots

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hours flying time per month are considered necessary for commercial pilots to retain their skills and competence. [3177]

Ms Buck: There are no specified flying hours per month necessary for pilots of commercial aircraft to retain their skills and competence. Commercial pilots are however required to complete a minimum of three take-offs and three landings as pilot flying (i.e. handling the aircraft) in the previous 90 days prior to operating a public transport flight, and a programme of recurrent training and checking requires them to demonstrate high levels of competency.

Crossrail

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the latest estimate is of the cost of Crossrail. [3167]

Derek Twigg: The latest estimate of the cost of Crossrail is contained in the Estimate of Expense submitted with the Crossrail hybrid Bill.

EU Directive

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what derogations the Government have *(a)* sought and *(b)* secured from (i) Article 4, (ii) Article 7 and (iii) other articles of Directive 2002/15/EC. [4230]

Dr. Ladyman: Directive 2002/15/EC allows for various derogations from Articles 4 and 7 under certain conditions. There is no requirement to seek approval for such derogations from the European Commission.

The Government consulted twice on their approach to implementing the Directive, including the use of derogations, and, following these consultations, the implementing regulations allowed for:

(a) the extension of the reference period (Article 4 of the Directive) over which the average 48 hour weekly working time limit is calculated from 17 to 26 weeks; and,

(b) exceeding the 10 hour working time limit for working at night (Article 7)

In both cases, such derogations may be applied only where there is a collective or workforce agreement (as required under the Directive).

No derogations are allowed from Articles of the Directive other than Articles 4 and 7.

High-occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the location of each high occupancy vehicle lane is; how long each lane is; and what new lanes are planned. [1673]

Dr. Ladyman: Three sections of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane are presently in operation. In Leeds two lengths totalling 1.5 km have been installed along a 2 km stretch of the A647 Stanningley Road. South Gloucestershire council has three sections of HOV lane on the A4174 Avon Ring Road totalling 1.79 km. North Somerset council has a 1.425 km length of HOV lane on the A370 Long Ashton Bypass.

Leeds city council plans to include HOV lane operation on the East Leeds Link. South Gloucestershire council plans a further 220 metre length for the A4174 and North Somerset council is considering an HOV lane on the A369 as part of a showcase bus route. I understand a number of other local authorities are also considering HOV lanes.

In addition the Highways Agency has recently carried out a study that assessed the feasibility of introducing HOV lanes on sections of the motorway network. As a result of this study it is planned to introduce an HOV lane in both directions on the M1 junctions 7–10 when that section of motorway is widened in 2008. If this scheme proves successful the HOV lane could be extended as far as junction 13 (Milton Keynes) when that section of motorway is widened in 2011. The length of HOV lane to be provided between junction 7–10 is approximately 12.5 km in both directions. If the HOV is extended to junction 13 the total length will be about 36.25 km in both directions.

The Agency is also looking into the feasibility of introducing HOV lanes on other sections of the motorway network. Locations being actively considered include sections of the M25 to be widened, M61 junctions 6–3 on the approach to Manchester and M62 junctions 25–27 on the approach to Leeds. This feasibility work is yet to conclude.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has collated on the effectiveness of high occupancy vehicle lanes. [1676]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department is in touch with the highway authorities who have installed high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. The Highways Agency has commissioned reviews of international knowledge and experience on high occupancy/toll (HOT) lanes, a development of HOV lanes.

Leeds city council has reported on the HOV lane on the A647 in Leeds and an information sheet is available on their website at http://www.leeds.gov.uk/, then search for high occupancy vehicle lane.

South Gloucester council can provide data on the performance of their HOV lane and there is some information on their website at http://www.southglos.gov.uk/SouthGlos/TransportAndRoads/TrafficAndRoads/CalmingAndManagement/CarShareLanes.htm

It is too early to report on the lane on the A370 Long Ashton Bypass in North Somerset which commenced operation in February this year.

Learner Driver Pack

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will *(a)* withdraw the Complete Official Learner Driver Pack published by The Stationery Office, *(b)* amend the inaccurate information it contains and *(c)* refund the cost to learner drivers and others who have purchased the Pack. [2852]

Dr. Ladyman: We have identified an error concerning information about a road sign in the DVD in our Complete Official Learner Driver Pack. We are taking steps to withdraw the incorrect packs from sale. We shall consider sympathetically any requests for a refund.

Litter

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many successful prosecutions were carried out against passengers for dropping litter at *(a)* train stations and *(b)* tube stations in London in each year since 1997. [2512]

Derek Twigg: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

M6

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has evaluated on *(a)* the purposes for car journeys on the M6 and *(b)* the average length of car journeys on the M6. [2764]

Dr. Ladyman: The purposes of car journeys and the average trip length on the M6 has been evaluated in connection with the West Midlands to North West Conurbations Multi-Modal Study.

(a) The purpose of car journeys that join the M6 between Junctions 11 and 19 were as follows:

	AM	*Inter-Peak*	*PM*
Commuting	58.2	12.8	49.8
Business	27.5	43.6	26.2
Other	14.0	43.6	24.0

These figures exclude journeys on the M6 that pass through both these junctions. The Department for Transport does not hold information on the purpose of these journeys.

(b) 42 per cent. of all traffic (cars, vans, lorries etc) passes through both Junction 11 and 19 and therefore has a journey length greater than 54 miles.

M62

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason a traffic survey was being carried out east of junction 37 on the M62 motorway on 4 June; and who was carrying out the survey. [3041]

Dr. Ladyman: A traffic survey was carried out east of junction 37 on the M62 motorway on 4 June to look at traffic flows in preparation for the removal of cones to be undertaken. The cones were in place to allow the installation of safety barriers. The survey was carried out by Balfour Beatty on behalf of the Highways Agency.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents took place on the M62 motorway east of junction 37 in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [3042]

Dr. Ladyman: There have been five accidents on the M62 motorway east of junction 37 during 2004, the latest year for which figures are available.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why speed cameras are being erected on the M62 motorway east of junction 37; upon whose authority the cameras were erected; for how long the cameras are expected to remain; and if he will make a statement. [3043]

Dr. Ladyman: Speed cameras have been erected on the M62 motorway east of junction 37 as part of the M62 Gilberdyke to Newport concrete resurfacing scheme to improve safety for the travelling public and the work force during the works. The cameras have been erected by the Highways Agency in agreement with the Humberside Camera Partnership and Humberside police. The cameras will be in place for the duration of the works. The works started on 9 June and are expected to last 10 weeks.

North London Line

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail journeys were made by freight trains on the North London Line in each year since 1997. [2504]

Derek Twigg: The Department does not hold this type of statistical information regarding the number of train journeys on specific lines of the rail network.

Specific inquiries of this nature should be directed to Network Rail and the train operating companies.

Park and Ride

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* new and *(b)* expansions of existing park and ride facilities are proposed in the most recent annual progress reports. [2170]

Ms Buck: The projected numbers of new and expanded existing schemes recorded by local authorities in the 2003–04 annual progress reports are in the table. A few authorities did not provide returns.

Park and ride facilities

	New	*Expansion to existing*	*Total*
2004–05	20	28	48
2005–06	32	25	57
2006–07	21	21	42
2007–08	23	11	34

Pedestrian Crossings

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for the claim that puffin crossings cause less vehicle delay than pelican crossings; what assessment the Department has made of which type of crossing pedestrians prefer and what guidance his Department gives to local authorities as to which system to install for newly implemented pedestrian crossings. [3724]

Dr. Ladyman: The reduced vehicle delay at a puffin crossing is primarily a result of cancelling the call for a pedestrian stage when no pedestrians are waiting. This frequently occurs when pedestrians see a gap in the traffic after pressing the call button. The benefit published in the Transport Research Laboratory study, (TRL Research Report 364), was derived from observations at sites where the call cancelling facility was trialled.

Puffin crossings were developed to address the problems that pedestrians were encountering in using traditional signalled controlled crossings, including pelicans. We are currently carrying out further research to assess the operation of conversions from pelicans to puffins, including the behaviour and perception of pedestrians.

The Department issued guidance to practitioners in the form of Local Transport Notes 1/95 "The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings" and 2/95— "Design of Pedestrian Crossings". These include information about both pelican and puffin crossings. They do not recommend one against the other, although they do say that it is intended that the puffin operational cycle will become the standard form of pedestrian crossing at all types of crossings.

PFI/PPP

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the private finance initiative and public private partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2362]

Ms Buck: The Department for Transport has awarded private finance initiative/public private partnership contracts for the following contracts. All of the projects are operational.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Estates Rationalisation

Highways Agency

Dartford Crossing
Severn Crossing
M6 Toll Road
A69
A1(M)
A417/419
A50
A30/35
M40
A19
M1-A1 Link Road
A1 Darrington to Dishforth
A249 Stockbridge to Sheerness
Traffic Control Centre

Vehicle Operator and Services Agency

MOT Computerisation

Quieter Road Surfaces

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the target in the 10-year plan for transport on quieter road surfaces remains a Government target. [2169]

Dr. Ladyman: The 10-year plan for transport included an illustration of the delivery programme possible by 2010–11, given the levels of investment set out in the

plan. Included in the illustration was the installation of quieter surfacing on over 60 per cent. of the strategic road network. The Highways Agency had surfaced approximately 27 per cent. of the network with quieter surfacing by the end of March 2005 and is currently on target to resurface 60 per cent. by the end of March 2011.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the Quiet Lanes Regulations to be published. [2171]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport expects to publish the Quiet Lanes and Home Zones Regulations in autumn 2005.

Railways

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* incidents of and *(b)* prosecutions there were for (i) vandalism and (ii) trespass on rail lines by (A) adults and (B) juveniles in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [1469]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport police have provided the following table which shows the number of reported incidents of criminal damage/malicious mischief and of trespass on the railway over the last five years. There are no separate statistics for vandalism and the statistics are not available by region.

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Criminal damage/malicious mischief offences					
England/Wales (exc. LU)	5,090	4,774	4,978	6,480	6,661
London Underground	693	725	925	1,509	1,470
Scotland	753	531	599	563	605
Total	6,536	6,030	6,502	8,552	8,736
Railway trespass offences					
England/Wales (exc. LU)	13,445	14,727	15,099	14,080	13,001
London Underground	23	28	91	242	357
Scotland	1,927	2,024	2,029	2,060	2,025
Total	15,395	16,779	17,219	16,382	15,383

The following table shows the number of offences prosecuted for criminal damage and for railway trespass for adults and juveniles, based on the date of the offence.

The British Transport police do not hold data on Scottish prosecutions.

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Criminal damage offences prosecuted—adults					
England/Wales (exc. LU)	413	449	442	414	312
London Underground	83	87	118	109	71
Total	496	536	560	523	383
Criminal damage offences prosecuted—juveniles					
England/Wales (exc. LU)	218	196	183	194	199
London Underground	35	49	36	36	92
Total	253	245	219	230	291
Railway trespass offences prosecuted—adults					
England/Wales (exc. LU)	237	457	412	522	448
London Underground	11	11	14	23	17
Total	248	468	426	545	465
Railway trespass offences prosecuted—juveniles					
England/Wales (exc. LU)	199	266	245	254	209
London Underground	10	6	4	3	13
Total	209	272	249	257	222

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive to discuss the siting of whistleboards. [4670]

Derek Twigg: There have been no meetings between Ministers at the Department, Network Rail and the Health and Safety Executive to discuss the siting of whistleboards. The railway industry has a duty under health and safety legislation to ensure that risks to those on or near railway lines are reduced. The location of whistleboards is the responsibility of Network Rail, who apply the requirements laid down by the Health and Safety Executive.

Train drivers are required to sound train horns where whistleboards are located: on the approaches to footpath crossings and at unprotected crossings, in order to alert pedestrians to approaching trains. This is an important safeguard for those using footpath and level crossings, as there have been a number of fatal accidents at such locations.

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action is being taken to improve services on the South Wales Main Passenger Rail Service. [4040]

Derek Twigg: The introduction of the Arriva Trains Wales Standard Pattern Timetable in December 2005 will bring a more regular, clockface timetable for services in South Wales. A 60-day consultation began on 2 June on future services in the new Greater Western franchise to run from 1 April 2006, which includes services between London and South Wales.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish a timetable for the break-up of Central Trains; and which franchise he expects will then be responsible for the Derby to Matlock services. [4063]

Derek Twigg: The Strategic Rail Authority has begun informal consultation with industry stakeholders including passenger transport executives and local authorities. Specific proposals for the re-allocation of Central Trains' services to other franchises will be considered later in the year.

Secure Station Status

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stations with secure station status have subsequently had their designation removed since 6 December 2004; and which stations have been designated secure stations under the secure station scheme since that date. [2173]

Derek Twigg: Stations are awarded secure stations status for a two year period once they have met the required scheme accreditation standards on station design, station management, crime management, and passenger perceptions. There is provision for the accreditation to be withdrawn if there is a clear breach of standards during that time. No stations have breached the standards since the launch of the scheme in 1998.

The following 38 stations have been accredited under the secure stations scheme since 6 December 2004, including 27 new accreditations and 11 re-accreditations:

Aberystwyth
Barnsley
Bath Spa
Beckton
Birkenhead Central
Birmingham New Street
Bletchley
Bow Church
Brentford
Bristol Temple Meads
Brunswick
Cannon Street
Chesterfield
Clapham Junction
Cobham and Stoke D'Abernon
Deptford Bridge
Devon Road
Fazakerley
Fleet
Gallions Reach
Honiton
Island Garden
Lewisham
Liverpool Lime Street
Meadow Hall
Milton Keynes
Northampton
Old Roan
Prince Regent
Pudding Mill Lane
St. Pancras
Swindon
Wallesey Grove Road
Wandsworth Town
Waterloo
Waterloo International
Watford Junction
Wigan North Western

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many crimes have been committed at stations that meet secure station status since 31 October 2004. [2172]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport police have provided the following information for the number of offences reported at stations that meet secure station status for the period 1 November 2004 to 31 May 2005:

	Number
Notifiable offences	7,249
Non-notifiable offences	2,484

Notifiable offences are those offences which form the Home Office recorded crime statistics and include all indictable offences together with some closely related summary offences such as common assault. Data supplied include offences recorded within stations' premises, including retail/entertainment outlets, car parks and cycle sheds.

Traffic Volume

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average 24 hour traffic volume at the *(a)* J3-J4E, *(b)* J4A-J5, *(c)* J9-J10, *(d)* J10-J10A, *(e)* J10A-J11, *(f)* J12-J13, *(g)* J6-J7 and *(h)* J9-J10 automatic traffic counters on the M6 on (i) Mondays to Fridays, (ii) Saturdays and (iii) Sundays has been in each month since January. [2300]

Dr. Ladyman: The traffic flows for the period from January to April 2005 are provided in the table. With regard to section *(a)*, the correct definition of this link is J3-J3a, rather than J3-J4E.

Average 24hr traffic volumes

		January 2005			*February 2005*		
Location	*Direction*	*Monday to Friday*	*Saturday*	*Sunday*	*Monday to Friday*	*Saturday*	*Sunday*
J3-J3a	N/B	58,067	34,966	35,370	62,341	41,949	39,787
J3-J3a	S/B	59,136	34,918	40,119	63,089	40,398	44,140
J4-J4a	N/B	50,425	33,639	33,118	54,582	39,410	37,436
J4-J4a	S/B	38,358	23,639	24,333	41,082	26,928	27,322
J4a-J5	N/B	65,367	42,824	41,170	69,481	46,420	45,205
J4a-J5	S/B	67,148	42,639	43,148	72,087	48,619	48,146

Average 24hr traffic volumes

Location	Direction	January 2005 Monday to Friday	January 2005 Saturday	January 2005 Sunday	February 2005 Monday to Friday	February 2005 Saturday	February 2005 Sunday
J9-J10	N/B	78,521	53,777	54,204	82,494	61,992	60,956
J9-J10	S/B	70,148	49,313	53,548	74,563	54,716	58,856
J10-J10A	N/B	66,340	44,347	45,021	71,083	51,365	51,465
J10-J10A	S/B	61,539	43,603	48,564	65,329	48,341	53,747
J10A-J11	N/B	45,749	31,544	32,390	48,846	36,524	37,496
J10A-J11	S/B	41,820	30,401	33,837	44,285	33,703	37,538
J12-J13	N/B	56,694	37,097	39,764	60,505	44,035	46,098
J12-J13	S/B	56,907	36,739	46,903	60,306	42,243	51,341
J6-J7	N/B	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
J6-J7	S/B	62,509	40,431	40,171	66,380	45,632	44,635

Location	Direction	March 2005 Monday to Friday	March 2005 Saturday	March 2005 Sunday	April 2005 Monday to Friday	April 2005 Saturday	April 2005 Sunday
J3-J3a	N/B	61,824	42,665	39,994	63,988	44,267	41,703
J3-J3a	S/B	62,503	41,438	44,411	64,449	43,314	46,236
J4-J4a	N/B	53,478	38,023	37,254	55,830	42,327	39,088
J4-J4a	S/B	40,041	25,768	27,217	40,831	28,540	27,729
J4a-J5	N/B	69,405	48,635	45,625	71,464	50,323	46,634
J4a-J5	S/B	70,390	46,741	47,930	73,468	51,561	50,167
J9-J10	N/B	83,014	60,449	63,278	[1]	[1]	[1]
J9-J10	S/B	73,895	54,189	60,821	75,131	60,137	63,948
J10-J10A	N/B	70,794	51,854	52,065	72,062	55,853	56,592
J10-J10A	S/B	64,983	48,449	54,183	65,653	53,071	59,118
J10A-J11	N/B	48,969	37,057	37,428	49,652	39,948	41,379
J10A-J11	S/B	44,385	34,081	37,315	44,727	37,605	40,843
J12-J13	N/B	62,246	45,902	45,822	62,853	48,988	50,290
J12-J13	S/B	62,238	43,724	50,872	62,699	46,714	55,597
J6-J7	N/B	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
J6-J7	S/B	64,609	42,419	44,772	67,000	48,470	46,643

[1] No data

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average 24 hour traffic volume at the *(a)* J6-J7 and *(b)* J9-J10 automatic traffic counters on the M42 on (i) Mondays to Fridays, (ii) Saturdays and (iii) Sundays has been in each month since January. [2301]

Dr. Ladyman: The traffic flows for the period from January to April 2005 are provided in the table.

2005	Junction 6 to Junction 7 Northbound	Junction 6 to Junction 7 Southbound	Junction 9 to Junction 10 Northbound	Junction 9 to Junction 10 Southbound
January				
Monday to Friday	58,310	[1]	36,027	33,992
Saturday	36,250	[1]	21,298	20,761
Sunday	43,293	[1]	22,729	22,809
February				
Monday to Friday	62,561	[1]	38,715	36,137
Saturday	42,366	[1]	25,169	23,659
Sunday	48,433	[1]	25,611	25,859
March				
Monday to Friday	63,784	[1]	38,466	36,304
Saturday	45,973	[1]	25,737	25,579
Sunday	48,952	[1]	25,776	25,868
April				
Monday to Friday	65,771	[1]	39,993	37,999
Saturday	47,987	[1]	26,480	26,290
Sunday	52,956	[1]	27,764	27,443

[1] No data available.

Train Commuters

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* passengers in excess of capacity and *(b)* total number of passengers figure was (i) for each London commuting service train operator and (ii) in total, broken down into (A) am peak and (B) pm peak figures measured in the annual survey in 2004; and how many peak passengers into London there were for (1) am peak periods, (2) pm peak periods and (3) in total for each London commuting service train operator. [2297]

Derek Twigg: The results of the autumn 2004 counts will be published at the end of this month. The results of the autumn 2003 counts are shown in the following

table. The "Passengers In Excess of Capacity" (PIXC) mechanism monitors services into London in the morning peak and out of London in the evening peak.

Operator	am peak Load	am peak PIXC (percentage)	pm peak Load	pm peak PIXC (percentage)	Total (am and pm)
Chiltern	9,191	3.3	8,157	0.8	2.1
South Central	69,127	4.7	52,083	1.1	3.1
Connex South Eastern	118,162	3.1	92,048	0.5	2.0
Great Eastern	47,739	2.1	46,358	2.1	2.1
C2c	26,643	1.3	23,619	0.6	1.0
Silverlink	18,824	6.0	17,395	2.1	4.2
South West Trains	81,670	7.4	70,373	2.8	5.2
Thames	11,054	2.0	8,977	0.9	1.5
Thameslink	27,131	2.3	23,218	2.7	2.5
WAGN	47,367	1.5	43,003	1.3	1.4
Total	459,908	3.8	385,231	1.5	2.7

Vehicle Excise Duty

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions in the last 12 months for which figures are available when the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) initiated court proceedings against people who were believed not to have paid excise duty (VED), the DVLA *(a)* withdrew proceedings and *(b)* lost a case in court because the vehicle keeper showed that he or she had paid VED; how much the DVLA estimates such proceedings cost public funds; what steps the DVLA will take to improve its administration procedures to avoid the initiation of this type of unnecessary proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [1470]

Dr. Ladyman: In the 12 months to the end of March 2005 DVLA successfully prosecuted 189,418 cases in court for vehicle excise duty (VED) evasion. DVLA was unsuccessful in 3,400 cases. A breakdown of why these cases were unsuccessful is not available but the main reason is likely to be that VED was paid after the summons had been issued.

DVLA asks for a minimum of £35 to cover the costs of the whole procedure from initiation of enforcement proceedings to attendance in court.

The agency makes every effort to avoid court action. Initial action against VED evaders is taken through the offer of an out of court settlement which offers the offender the opportunity to settle the matter without recourse to court proceedings. Around 27 per cent. of evaders make use of this procedure.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of collecting vehicle excise duty in the latest year for which information is available. [4539]

Dr. Ladyman: The total cost of collecting vehicle excise duty in 2004–05 was £119.5 million.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* widows and *(b)* widowers are receiving bereavement allowance; and how many of these are over 55 years and claiming the full rate of benefit. [3867]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Bereavement allowance recipients in Great Britain, as at September 2004

	All bereavement allowance recipients in Great Britain	Bereavement allowance recipients aged 55+ and receiving the full rate
Male	5,300	600
Female	14,400	6,300
Total	19,700	6,900

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The full rate for bereavement allowance at September 2004 is £79.60.
3. Bereavement allowance figures include both age related and non-age related recipients.
4. Figures exclude overseas recipients.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* widows and *(b)* widowers have received the lump sum bereavement benefit of £2,000 within the last 12 months. [3868]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Number of successful claims for bereavement payment in the last 12 months, by gender.

	Total successful claims	Total successful claims; female	Total successful claims; male
April 2005	2,983	1,838	1,145
March 2005	2,891	1,772	1,119
February 2005	2,862	1,805	1,057
January 2005	3,420	2,203	1,217
December 2004	2,445	1,567	878
November 2004	2,786	1,746	1,040
October 2004	2,853	1,848	1,005
September 2004	2,604	1,721	883
August 2004	2,397	1,512	885
July 2004	2,476	1,601	875
June 2004	2,749	1,770	979
May 2004	2,635	1,636	999

Source:
Management Information Systems Programme 04 (MISP 04)

Cost-benefit Analyses

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which employment programmes have had a cost benefit analysis produced; and if he will place copies in the Library. [2078]

Margaret Hodge: Evidence on the cost effectiveness of the New Deal for Young People programme has been produced by the Policy Studies Institute and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and is available in the Library in 'Findings from the Macro Evaluation of the New Deal for Young People, DWP Research Report 168.'

A preliminary cost benefit analysis of New Deal for Lone Parents programme was carried in house by DWP economists, using results from the independent evaluation of the programme carried out by the National Centre for Social Research. The findings were published in 'New Deal for Lone Parents: Second Synthesis Report of the National Evaluation', DWP Evaluation Report W163 June 2003 and is also available in the Library.

This Department is currently producing cost benefit analyses of other major labour market programmes using an improved and more consistent method on a rolling basis. Results are expected to emerge from this autumn and as produced they will be made available under the Department's Freedom of Information procedures.

Earnings-related Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of increasing the basic state pension to the level of the guarantee credit, linking that level to the growth of average earnings, abolishing the winter heating allowance and pensioner means-tested benefits, and introducing these charges for all pensioners aged over *(a)* 65, *(b)* 67, *(c)* 70 and *(d)* 75 years in each year from 2005–06 to 2050–51. [2062]

Mr. Timms: Such information as is available is in the table:

Cost of raising the level of the basic State Pension to the guaranteed credit level while abolishing pension credit and the winter fuel payment

Age:	*2005–06*	*2010–11*	*2020–21*	*2030–31*	*2040–41*	*£ billion 2050–51*
Over 65	5	10	25	50	80	113
Over 67	5	8	22	43	72	101
Over 70	4	6	17	34	60	84
Over 75	2	4	10	21	40	61

Notes:

1. The costs are for Great Britain in 2005–06 price terms, using the Gross Domestic Product deflator index, rounded to the nearest £1 billion.
2. Basic State Pension (BSP) expenditure is estimated by the Government Actuary's Department, consistent with Budget 2005 assumptions, made using 2003 based population projections.
3. Pension credit and the winter fuel payment expenditures are estimated by the Department for Work and Pensions forecasts based on 2005 Budget assumptions.
4. The eligibility to the basic State Pension is assumed not to change and to achieve the minimum basic State Pension payable (25 per cent.) a person will normally need 10 or 11 qualifying years.
5. It is assumed that the full rate of basic State Pension is increased to the level of the individual guarantee credit in 2005–06 and is increased in line with earnings. Category B pension paid to married women and basic State Pension paid to people entitled to less than the full rate of basic State Pension are increased by the same proportion.
6. Both pension credit and the winter fuel payment are assumed to be abolished for the different age groups from April 2005 with no payments to existing pensioners and no new recipients after 2005.
7. These figures do not take into account any offsets of tax.
8. Entitlement to additional State Pension, housing benefit, council tax benefit and other pensioner benefits are all assumed to be unchanged.

Under this proposal the pensioners already in receipt of pension credit would be no better off and a substantial number of pensioners would be worse off. This would be because they would lose pension credit and winter fuel payments and any additional amounts that pension credit gives them for caring responsibility, disability and certain housing costs.

Housing Benefit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit payment in *(a)* the London borough of Haringey and *(b)* Greater London has been in each of the last eight years; and if he will make a statement. [4110]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The information is in the table.

Average weekly housing benefit payments in London borough of Haringey and the Government Office Region of London

As at November:	*Haringey*	*£ per week London*
1997	70.50	60.94
1998	72.13	62.45
1999	73.59	65.59
2000	77.97	68.78
2001	84.23	73.55
2002	93.73	81.69
2003	99.23	84.42
2004	108.51	92.42

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The average amounts have been rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 1997 to 2004.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit payment in each London borough has been in each of the past five years. [2249]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table:

Average weekly amount of housing benefit in London by local authority: November 2000 to 2004

£

Local authority	November 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Barking	53.29	55.94	58.73	64.26	70.29
Barnet	80.93	85.58	93.04	101.49	112.09
Bexley	64.73	68.29	73.16	74.92	82.13
Brent	86.20	92.40	103.40	103.83	113.25
Bromley	68.23	70.94	78.23	79.63	83.98
Camden	73.83	77.81	88.48	85.19	92.05
City of London	66.54	67.44	78.53	73.15	79.44
Croydon	71.02	75.37	82.50	84.97	91.67
Ealing	73.98	78.74	86.20	93.65	103.31
Enfield	73.35	82.99	97.97	99.92	108.85
Greenwich	57.96	60.87	63.96	66.12	70.33
Hackney	65.98	71.00	79.71	75.88	87.02
Hammersmith and Fulham	67.82	74.11	81.92	82.66	90.40
Haringey	77.97	84.23	93.73	99.23	108.51
Harrow	82.15	92.28	105.66	109.49	117.34
Havering	54.44	58.25	61.02	60.68	67.11
Hillingdon	72.21	77.60	83.41	94.76	98.98
Hounslow	62.44	65.13	71.93	78.21	84.20
Islington	62.31	66.45	71.52	73.61	80.54
Kensington and Chelsea	79.88	83.02	95.50	91.36	104.41
Kingston upon Thames	73.46	78.94	87.17	91.04	97.08
Lambeth	62.00	65.68	74.60	74.53	82.67
Lewisham	57.98	62.16	67.38	67.41	69.55
Merton	63.75	67.30	72.54	76.14	83.13
Newham	68.88	74.82	87.34	96.18	109.20
Redbridge	86.37	90.67	98.13	104.82	119.18
Richmond upon Thames	70.03	74.11	82.46	86.28	91.96
Southwark	57.79	60.83	67.88	68.29	73.05
Sutton	61.55	63.36	69.98	72.91	77.92
Tower Hamlets	63.38	68.12	74.82	79.15	87.10
Waltham Forest	65.86	70.28	78.22	78.71	88.53
Wandsworth	72.46	76.70	82.81	86.46	93.41
Westminster	90.78	97.50	114.58	115.51	126.83

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures are weekly amounts expressed in pounds and have been rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. From April 2003 support costs were removed from housing benefit eligible rents, resulting in a decrease in the amount of housing benefit awarded. This accounts for the decrease in some of the figures at November 2003.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 2000 to 2004.

Job Centre (High Wycombe)

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long it took for payments of *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit to be made to recipients who claimed those benefits at the Job Centre in High Wycombe in (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003 and (iv) 2004. [1518]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Paul Goodman, dated 14 June 2005:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how long it took for payments of Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance and Incapacity Benefit to be made to customers who claimed those benefits at the jobcentre in High Wycombe in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The available information is in the table.

Clearance times[1] for High Wycombe new claims

Days

Benefit	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
IS[2] WA / IS[2] MIG	14.4	14.8	19.4 / [3]30.2	23.3 / —	15.63 / —
JSA	13.9	14.7	25.8	28	20.40
IB	20.7	28.7	[4]34.6	[4]26.42	[4]14.43

[1] The clearance times figures in the table are mean figures taken over a 12 month period.

[2] Income support 2001–02 includes Aylesbury claims and from 2002–03 includes *all* Bucks claims.

[3] In 2002–03 claims for income support were processed separately according to whether they were from customers of working age or pension age (minimum income guarantee).

[4] IB processed at Aylesbury so these figures relate to the district.

Source:
Bucks and Oxon District Jobcentre Plus

The mean clearance times in the table show how long it took for a claim to be decided. Where payment is due to the customer at the time the claim is decided, it is made on the same day. If the claim is decided before the first payment is due, then payment is made on the following payday.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseeker's allowance

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many UK citizens living abroad are in receipt of jobseekers allowance. [2037]

Mr. Plaskitt: None; one of the conditions of entitlement to jobseekers allowance is that the claimant be in Great Britain.

In certain very limited circumstances jobseekers allowance can remain in payment during a temporary absence abroad.

Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the pensions industry about the number of people aged 53 years and over who remain contracted into the state second pension. [3576]

Mr. Timms: My colleagues and I have had wide ranging discussions with representatives of the pensions industry and these have included issues that relate to the current contracting-out arrangements.

It is for individuals to decide and keep under review whether it is in their best interest to contract out, taking into account their attitude to risk and their personal circumstances. The Department is however committed to ensuring that people are properly informed of the issues involved so that they can make a decision that best suits their needs. This includes the fact that when they reach the age at which the age-related rebate is capped, currently age 54, most personal pension holders would be better off contracting back in.

Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of housing benefit and council tax benefit claims that will need to be reassessed as a result of overpayments of tax credits in the last 12 months; what assessment he has made of the cost implications for local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [2856]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* No housing benefit or council tax benefit assessments need to be revisited solely because of an incorrect tax credit award. Both housing benefit and council tax benefit take into account the actual amount of tax credit in payment at the time. This means that when someone is getting a higher amount of tax credit than they are due, they will receive less housing benefit or council tax benefit. However, when the tax credit is reduced on account of an earlier overpayment, the individual will receive a higher amount of housing benefit or council tax benefit.

This is easier for local authorities to administer and means that individuals receive, overall, the right amount of money. There should be no cost implications to local authorities.

Unemployment/Incapacity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the numbers of *(a)* unemployed people and *(b)* people on incapacity benefit in each year between 1979–80 and 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [969]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the table.

Numbers of people claiming unemployment benefit (UB), jobseekers allowance (JSA), invalidity benefit (IVB), incapacity benefit (IB) or severe disability allowance (SDA) in Great Britain in each year

	UB/JSA claimants	*IVB/IB and SDA working-age claimants*
1979	1,011,000	720,000
1980	1,289,000	731,000
1981	2,068,000	751,000
1982	2,426,000	798,000
1983	2,656,000	860,000
1984	2,779,000	937,000
1985	2,886,000	1,037,000
1986	2,946,000	1,089,000
1987	2,660,000	1,152,000
1988	2,142,000	1,237,000
1989	1,665,000	1,348,000
1990	1,553,000	1,453,000
1991	2,169,000	1,582,000
1992	2,637,000	1,754,000
1993	2,773,000	1,946,000
1994	2,502,000	2,102,000
1995	2,202,000	2,443,000
1996	2,004,000	2,486,000
1997	1,521,000	2,543,000
1998	1,290,000	2,539,000
1999	1,197,000	2,570,000
2000	1,046,000	2,620,000
2001	930,000	2,653,000
2002	910,000	2,658,000
2003	899,000	2,666,000
2004	823,000	2,644,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. "working-age" includes men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
3. Invalidity benefit was replaced by incapacity benefit in 1995. The IB/SDA figures from 1995 onwards include incapacity benefit short-term lower-rate benefit cases, so cannot be directly compared with the pre-1995 figures.
4. Invalidity benefit and incapacity benefit figures include credits-only cases.

Source:
UB/JSA—Claimant Count, Nomis.
IVB/IB/SDA—Social Security Statistics (figures up to and including year 1996);
IBQSE February quarters (figures from 1997 to 1994); and Client Group Analysis (figures for 1995 to 2004).

CABINET OFFICE

Civil contingency plans

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which local authorities have produced *(a)* civil contingency and *(b)* emergency plans. [2442]

Mr. Hutton: Local authorities do not currently have a statutory duty to undertake civil protection activity. The Government makes a contribution towards the cost

of civil protection work undertaken by all principal local authorities, but does not systematically collect information on the emergency plans and business continuity plans that local authorities maintain.

Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004—which will come fully into force in November 2005—will establish a statutory framework for civil protection activity at the local level. The Act sets out clear roles and responsibilities for local responder organisations and establishes a basis for effective performance management. Under this legislation principal local authorities will be required to maintain both emergency plans and business continuity plans to the standards set out in the Regulations and statutory guidance that support the Act. English local authorities' performance against the requirements set out in the Act will be monitored by the Audit Commission as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Electoral Register

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of names on the current electoral register that were rolled forward from the previous year's register. [2745]

Ms Harman: The information requested has not been collected by the Government. Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), appointed by local authorities for the purpose, have a statutory duty to compile and maintain electoral registers. The Representation of the People Regulations 2001 provide for the ERO to retain electors' details on the register where they have not returned the annual canvass form, unless they fail to return the canvass form the following year. These provisions were made to facilitate a more accurate and flexible electoral register.

Equality and Diversity

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how her Department promotes equality and diversity within the Department. [3293]

Ms Harman: My Department carried out an audit of equality and diversity in 2003. This led to the initiation of a programme of work to take forward the recommendations of that review. Steady progress has been made in the key areas of delivering services to our communities, policy making, staff potential and leadership and compliance with diversity legislation.

House of Lords

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the Department's policy is on reform of the House of Lords. [3292]

Ms Harman: I refer my hon. Friend to my reply of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 535W to the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr. Beith).

Judicial Appointments

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans there are to introduce part-time salaried judicial posts in the Crown court. [1580]

Ms Harman: With effect from 1 April 2005 arrangements for salaried part-time working have been extended to all salaried judicial office holders below High Court level.

Magistrates

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of magistrates resident in Nottingham North; and if she will take steps to improve recruitment of magistrates in that constituency. [2829]

Ms Harman: We do not have data showing magistrates by residence, the current number of magistrates serving in the Nottingham local justice area is 385.

The Magistrates National Recruitment Strategy Implementation Paper published on 11 March 2005 sets out the progress made to date, and sets out how we will be working with advisory committees to recruit more magistrates, target recruitment where it is most needed, to raise the profile of the magistracy, and to improve the diversity of benches.

Legal Aid

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of solicitors firms have ceased performance of their *(a)* immigration legal aid and *(b)* family legal aid contracts before the expiry of the term of the contract in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [7423]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not available. The figures in the table set out the number of solicitors' offices with civil contracts with the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The figures date from 2000 when the new contracting regime was implemented. The initial contract lasted from 2000 to 2004, when a new three year contract was introduced.

Family category—solicitors with controlled work contracts at start of year

Contracts (percentage difference on previous year)

	2000–01	*2001–02*		*2002–03*	
	Number	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Birmingham	440	354	−20	317	−10
Brighton	331	267	−19	240	−10
Bristol	477	427	−10	420	−2
Cambridge	408	364	−11	351	−4
Cardiff	370	311	−16	292	−6

Family category—solicitors with controlled work contracts at start of year

Contracts (percentage difference on previous year)

	2000–01	2001–02		2002–03	
	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Leeds	369	332	−10	319	−4
Liverpool	120	95	−21	92	−3
London	576	414	−28	395	−5
Manchester	570	468	−18	457	−2
Newcastle	279	254	−9	250	−2
Nottingham	339	306	−10	286	−7
Reading	308	255	−17	230	−10
Grand total	4,587	3,847	−16	3,649	−5

	2003–04		2004–05		2005–06	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Birmingham	295	−7	256	−13	249	−3
Brighton	207	−14	171	−17	159	−7
Bristol	404	−4	383	−5	363	−5
Cambridge	321	−9	295	−8	271	−8
Cardiff	276	−5	257	−7	257	−0
Leeds	304	−5	276	−9	276	−0
Liverpool	83	−10	78	−6	76	−3
London	354	−10	302	−15	303	−0
Manchester	432	−5	374	−13	373	−0
Newcastle	237	−5	224	−5	216	−4
Nottingham	272	−5	254	−7	246	−3
Reading	205	−11	181	−12	178	−2
Grand total	3,390	−7	3,051	−10	2,967	−3

Family category—solicitors with general civil contracts at start of year (can do licensed work)

Contracts (percentage difference on previous year)

	2000–01	2001–02		2002–03	
	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Birmingham	440	381	−13	328	−14
Brighton	331	282	−15	267	−5
Bristol	477	464	−3	437	−6
Cambridge	408	405	−1	371	−8
Cardiff	370	344	−7	317	−8
Leeds	369	359	−3	341	−5
Liverpool	120	107	−11	97	−9
London	576	505	−12	441	−13
Manchester	570	523	−8	484	−7
Newcastle	279	256	−8	250	−2
Nottingham	339	318	−6	302	−5
Reading	308	270	−12	240	−11
Grand total	4,587	4,214	−8	3,875	−8

	2003–04		2004–05		2005–06	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Birmingham	309	−6	276	−11	277	0
Brighton	233	−13	197	−15	188	−5
Bristol	429	−2	406	−5	398	−2
Cambridge	343	−8	315	−8	312	−1
Cardiff	300	−5	281	−6	281	0
Leeds	333	−2	283	−15	298	5
Liverpool	95	−2	85	−11	81	−5
London	406	−8	355	−13	359	1
Manchester	458	−5	433	−5	400	−8
Newcastle	242	−3	224	−7	223	0
Nottingham	295	−2	269	−9	280	4
Reading	222	−8	203	−9	196	−3
Grand total	3,665	−5	3,327	−9	3,293	−1

Immigration category—solicitors with general civil contracts at start of year

Contracts (percentage difference on previous year)

	2000–01	2001–02		2002–03	
	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Birmingham	31	29	6	31	7
Brighton	11	11	0	10	9
Bristol	10	16	60	13	−19
Cambridge	15	22	47	18	−18
Cardiff	8	9	13)	9	0
Leeds	20	28	40	28	0
Liverpool	2	2	0	3	50
London	299	311	4	327	5
Manchester	17	28	65	26	−7
Newcastle	6	14	133	16	14
Nottingham	22	25	14	19	−24
Reading	15	18	20	14	−22
Grand total	456	513	13	514	0

	2003–04		2004–05		2005–06	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Birmingham	36	16	32	−11	29	−9
Brighton	9	−10	8	−11	8	0
Bristol	15	15	13	−13	10	−23
Cambridge	14	−22	8	−43	7	−13
Cardiff	10	11	10	0	10	0
Leeds	29	4	23	−21	23	0
Liverpool	3	0	3	0	3	0
London	350	7	230	−34	215	−7
Manchester	30	15	30	0	24	−20
Newcastle	16	0	16	0	16	0
Nottingham	22	16	15	−32	14	−7
Reading	18	29	18	0	17	−6
Grand total	552	7	406	−26	376	−7

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of solicitors firms have refused the offer of civil legal aid contracts in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [7422]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not keep records of firms which refuse offers of a contract, only the changes in numbers for each year.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Correspondence

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he has taken to ensure that all official correspondence from his Department carries *(a)* an e-mail address and *(b)* a telephone contact number. [1862]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All departmental staff are encouraged to provide such details by using an agreed template when replying to correspondence.

Council Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what percentage of local authority-owned properties in each London borough are fitted with (i) smoke alarms, (ii) fire doors and (iii) double glazing; [2524]

(2) what percentage of council-owned properties had their smoke alarms checked in the last 12 months, in each London borough. [2551]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what analysis his Department has undertaken of the potential effect of council tax revaluation in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham; and if he will make a statement. [3419]

Mr. Woolas: The terms of reference for the independent inquiry into local government funding by Sir Michael Lyons require him to make recommendations on how best to reform council tax, taking into account the forthcoming revaluation of domestic property. His report is due to be submitted by the end of the year to my right hon. Friends the Deputy Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Michael's work will inform the Government's decisions on council tax bands.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what criteria have been drawn up for the council tax banding revaluation; [4099]

(2) whether he plans to increase the number of council tax bandings in England at the time of revaluation. [3105]

Mr. Woolas: The terms of reference for the independent inquiry into local government funding by Sir Michael Lyons require him to make recommendations on how best to reform council tax,

taking into account the forthcoming revaluation of domestic property. His report is due to be submitted by the end of the year to my right hon. Friends the Deputy Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Michael's work will inform the Government's decisions on council tax bands.

Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the Standards Board spent on external legal advice and representation in the investigation and Adjudicants Bench Hearing into the complaint against Westminster City Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg; and if he will make a statement. [3107]

Mr. Woolas: The Standards Board for England has incurred spending of about £50,000 on external legal advice and representation in respect of the case concerning Councillor Dimoldenberg.

Councils (Audit Fees)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated audit and inspection fees to be levied by the Audit Commission for each individual council rated as excellent in their Comprehensive Performance Assessment will be in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06. [4301]

Mr. Woolas: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission. I will ask the chief executive to write to the hon. Member and to ensure the answer is made available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Union Representatives

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3317]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not currently have a trade union learning representative. However, the Departmental Trade Union Side is consulted on our learning and development policies on a regular basis.

Disability Discrimination

Danny Alexander: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what measures will be used to ensure that local authorities meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to promote equality for disabled people and eliminate unlawful discrimination, with particular reference to the diversity of needs of people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [3170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The general duty to promote disability set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 will place positive, proactive responsibilities on public authorities to work towards a more equal society by mainstreaming disability equality into the way in which they carry out their functions. This includes local authorities and Government Departments (including the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister). The general duty will come into force in December 2006.

The 2005 Act also enables Ministers to impose specific duties on public bodies such as local authorities. The purpose of imposing specific duties is to assist these public bodies to comply with the general duty to promote equality. Such duties might include the publishing of Disability Equality Scheme, or the monitoring of various indicators, particularly in relation to employment of disabled people.

It will be the responsibility of each public authority to ensure that it is acting in compliance with its statutory duties. If the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is satisfied that a public authority is not complying with its specific duties, it will be able to serve a compliance notice. This would require the authority to comply with its duties and inform the DRC of the measures it has taken. If necessary the DRC could ask the county court or sheriff court to order the authority to comply.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will publish a Disability Equality Scheme by December 2006, which will outline how the Office will meet its legal responsibilities.

Environmental Health Officers (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many environmental health officers were employed by each London borough per 1,000 population in the last year for which figures are available. [2488]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Faith Awareness Training

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3811]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) ran a series of workshops specifically dedicated to faith awareness training during 2002–03. Just over 300 staff attended. There are no plans to repeat the programme at present. Our current approach is rather to integrate equality and diversity awareness into the design and delivery of training and development programmes across the ODPM.

Faith Communities

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent consultations have been carried out by his Department with representatives of faith communities; and if he will make a statement. [3226]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister maintains the Inner Cities Religious Council (ICRC). ICRC routinely meets three times a year for the purpose of consultation with faith communities. Recent agenda items have included consultations on the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit and the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Fire Service

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were rescued alive by the fire service *(a)* from fires, *(b)* from fires in dwellings and *(c)* having been trapped or injured by industrial machinery in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [1632]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of people rescued alive from fires by fire and rescue service personnel in England are shown for each year 1994 to 2003 in the following table.

The number of people rescued having been trapped or injured by industrial machinery is not available centrally.

	Rescued casualties[1]		*Rescued unharmed*[2]		*All people rescued alive*	
	All fires	*Dwelling fires*	*All fires*	*Dwelling fires*	*All fires*	*Dwelling fires*
1994	2,072	1,815	1,150	901	3,222	2,716
1995	2,317	2,034	1,155	918	3,472	2,952
1996	2,442	2,138	1,022	864	3,464	3,002
1997	2,684	2,347	889	701	3,573	3,048
1998	2,545	2,300	959	811	3,504	3,111
1999	2,511	2,252	1,413	1,043	3,924	3,295
2000	2,728	2,641	2,155	1,627	4,883	4,268
2001	2,671	2,412	1,409	1,176	4,080	3,588
2002[3]	2,829	2,580	1,763	1,589	4,592	4,169
2003[3]	2,735	2,441	1,606	1,427	4,341	3,868

[1] Based on all primary fires attended. Casualties include people who were injured or required a precautionary check-up.
[2] Based on a grossed up 20 per cent. sample of primary fires attended.
[3] Data include estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of national industrial action in 2002 and 2003.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to ODPM.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of firefighters in the Fire and Rescue Service was female in each year since 1997. [2445]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The percentage of female firefighters (wholetime and retained duty system) in the Fire and Rescue Service in England is set out as follows:

Date	*All*	*Female*	*Percentage female*
31 March 1997	45,049	382	0.8
31 March 1998	44,702	407	0.9
31 March 1999	44,940	473	1.1
31 March 2000	44,637	548	1.2
31 March 2001	44,694	632	1.4
31 March 2002	44,594	753	1.7
31 March 2003	44,679	938	2.1
31 March 2004	44,871	1,081	2.4

Source:
ODPM annual returns

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* railway and *(b)* aircraft accidents were attended by the fire service in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [1633]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Number of railway and aircraft incidents attended by the fire and rescue service in England each year, between 1994–95 and 2003–04. The following table shows the breakdown of fire and non-fire incidents attended.

	Railway (non-fire)	*Railway (fires)*	*Total railway incidents*	*Aircraft (non-fire)*	*Aircraft (fires)*	*Total aircraft incidents*
1994–95	96	121	217	259	6	265
1995–96	93	110	203	309	41	350
1996–97	75	132	207	317	29	346
1997–98	131	109	240	299	40	339
1998–99	92	138	230	378	52	430
1999–2000	67	101	168	231	39	270
2000–01	108	114	222	194	25	219
2001–02	92	91	183	259	52	311
2002–03	97	122	219	178	24	202
2003–04	69	68	137	211	30	241

Note:
Data include estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of national industrial action in 2002–03.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to ODPM.

Green Belt

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what powers *(a)* the Greater London Authority and *(b)* the regional chambers, have to create, amend, review or delete green belt designation. [4285]

Yvette Cooper: The creation, amendment, review or deletion of green belts is undertaken through the statutory development plan process, in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Any proposals to establish new green belts, or to change the general extent of existing green belts, should be considered as part of a review of the regional spatial strategy, or the London Plan, in the first instance. Detailed boundary changes would be made by local planning authorities through the preparation and review of local development frameworks.

House Building

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the requirement is for the number of houses to be built in Tamworth in each of the next 10 years. [3338]

Yvette Cooper: The requirement for housing is currently being considered through the Local Plan process. It would therefore be prejudicial to the proper planning process to pre-empt these considerations.

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands does not currently provide housing requirements at district level. The West Midlands Regional Assembly is currently undertaking technical work which will deliver district level requirements through a future review of the RSS. In the meantime Tamworth borough council is currently completing its Local Plan and has considered relevant advice in relation to the level of housing requirements. The Local Plan process is nearing the conclusion of its statutory process and we would expect annual requirements to be confirmed by spring 2006.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of new build housing in Kettering borough up to 2021 he expects will take place on greenfield land. [4168]

Yvette Cooper: The Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy, published on 17 March 2005, does not set targets for the proportion of greenfield land to be used for housing. This issue will be considered by Kettering borough council and the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit when producing Local Development Document. However, a main aim of achieving Sustainable Communities in the sub-region, as stated in Strategic Policy 3 of the strategy, will be to maximise the contribution of 'previously developed land'.

Local Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on local government pensions; and what plans he has to tackle deficits in local government pension funds. [2926]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and I last met with the chairman of the Local Government Association at the first meeting of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) tripartite committee which was held on 24 May.

The setting up of this committee was announced by my right hon. Friend on 18 March. It is chaired by my right hon. Friend, and includes representatives of local authority employers and trades unions. It will focus on the development and modernisation of the scheme, involving the local authority employers and trade unions who have an interest in its future and will consider what measures need to be put in place to ensure the scheme's affordability and sustainability. We want to ensure that local authority employees have a stable, strong pension scheme in which they have confidence. It is important that the balance is right between, on the one hand, the cost of the scheme to the taxpayer, and on the other hand, the value of the benefits which the scheme offers to current and future pensioners.

Following the 31 March 2004 LGPS actuarial valuation exercise, the actuaries appointed by each of the funds in England and Wales have set employer contribution rates, with effect from 1 April 2005, so as to ensure the ongoing solvency of individual funds as required by the LGPS Regulations 1997. This exercise took account of each funds' funding strategy statement which sets out the deficit recovery period over which their liabilities are to be prudently managed.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the review of the Local Government Standards Board is expected to be completed; and if he will make a statement on the progress of the review. [3814]

Mr. Woolas: It is expected that the review by the Standards Board for England of the code of conduct for local authority members will be concluded this autumn, following the end of the board's consultation exercise on 17 June. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will consider carefully any recommendations the board may make following its review.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total cost of the Local Government Standards Board was in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [3817]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is tabled as follows:

£ million

	Grant paid to the Standards Board for England
2003-04	8.944
2004-05	8.94
2005-06	[1]9.181

[1] Expected.

These figures represent the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's annual funding to the Standards Board. Grant funding enables the board and the Adjudication Panel to undertake the full range of their responsibilities, including the investigation by board officials of allegations of misconduct by local authority members, the issuing of guidance to authorities on conduct issues and the determination of cases by tribunals of Adjudication Panel members.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the daily fee paid to adjudicators sitting on a Local Government Standards Board adjudication panel is; whether there is a fee for preparatory 'reading in' work on a case; when the fees were last reviewed; when they are next expected to be reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [3819]

Mr. Woolas: The current daily fees payable to members of the Adjudication Panel for England are shown in the following table:

£

	Daily fee from 1 April 2005
President of the Adjudication Panel	452
Legal members of the Adjudication Panel	379
Lay members of the Adjudication Panel	175
Fee for cancellation of tribunal date	58

The fees were last reviewed with effect from 1 April 2005, and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister currently expects them to be reviewed again next year. No fee in addition to the daily fees listed above is payable.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of the cases disposed of directly by the Local Government Standards Board *(a)* were not investigated, *(b)* had no evidence of a breach of the code and *(c)* resulted in no action being required in respect of the matters under investigation in each of the last three years. [3897]

Mr. Woolas: This information is shown in the following table:

Cases	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Not referred for investigation	1,689	2,144	3,029
Investigations producing finding of no evidence of a breach of the code	113	154	310
Investigations producing finding that no action is required in respect of the matters under investigation	225	462	947

Local Strategic Partnerships

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Government's policy is on hon. Members being members of local strategic partnerships. [2645]

Mr. Woolas: The membership, structure and size of a Local Strategic Partnership (LSPs) should reflect both their aims and the breath of issues that fall within their scope. The precise membership of any partnership will depend on local circumstances and priorities. It is up to the LSP to decide who their members should be but LSP will only be effective if their core membership includes the public, private, community and voluntary sector.

London Housing Board

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria he used in making the decision to over-rule the London Housing Board's recommendation on investment allocations in 2004 to 2006 [3945]

Yvette Cooper: Regional Housing Board recommendations on allocations for 2004–05 and 2005–06 were largely accepted in full. However the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister made changes for London, East of England and the South East to the balance of funding for different types of affordable housing. This was done in order to ensure sufficient investment in key worker housing in the three years to 2005–06.

Mobile Phone Masts

Mr. Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on mobile phone operators sharing telecommunications masts; what steps he has taken to encourage operators to do so; and if he will make a statement. [2746]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Guidance Note 8, "Telecommunications" (PPG8), makes clear the expectation that developers should provide evidence to local planning authorities that they have carefully considered the use of existing masts, buildings and other structures before seeking to erect any new mast, regardless of size. The authority may be justified in refusing prior approval or planning permissions if it considers the evidence regarding the consideration of such alternative sites is not satisfactory.

Ministers in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister meet regularly with the Mobile Operators Association to discuss a range of issues including the operators' progress in meeting their 10 commitments which includes a commitment on site sharing. The UK network operators have established a cross-industry Site Share Working Group and have developed a database to facilitate the exchange of information on site sharing opportunities.

On 4 April, it was announced that the Government will be commissioning research to identify the future direction of mobile phone technology and the future need for mast developments. The research will also look at the potential for increased sharing of masts.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what investigation his Department has undertaken into the fees charged by local planning authorities for planning applications for mobile telephone telecommunication masts; and if he will make a statement. [2748]

Yvette Cooper: Research was undertaken by Arup for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003 to investigate the costs of handling planning applications in general. Using this as a basis, in September 2004 we issued a consultation document entitled "Changes to the System of Planning Fees in England" and in December 2004 we published a second consultation document entitled "Further Proposed Changes to the System of Planning Fees in England". Both these documents asked about the fees charged by local planning authorities for planning applications for mobile telephone telecommunication masts.

Negative Subsidy

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was taken in negative subsidy from *(a)* all councils and *(b)* Tamworth borough council in each of the last two years. [3336]

Yvette Cooper: Total negative subsidy in 2004–05 was £620,543,656. The equivalent figure, representing the total negative housing element for 2003–04 was £706,268,335. Negative subsidy generated by some councils is captured so that it can be redistributed to other authorities with an assumed deficit. It is not retained by central Government

Negative subsidy for Tamworth in 2004–05 was £1,205,058. The borough's negative housing element in 2003–04 was £1,242,533..

The definition of negative subsidy was changed by the Local Government Act 2003, which came into force on 1 April 2004. The figures given are directly comparable, though the terminology changed between the financial years.

New Build

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of new build residential properties in *(a)* England and *(b)* London have been purchased by (i) individuals not normally resident in the UK and (ii) companies not based in the UK. [4372]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Press Officers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many press officers were employed by each London borough per 1,000 population in the last year for which figures are available. [2463]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Property Prices

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average price of a new build residential property excluding social housing in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* Westminster and *(d)* Barnet was on the latest date for which figures are available. [4369]

Yvette Cooper: Figures from the HM Land Registry for 2004 give the following median prices for new properties sold:

Area	*Median price (£)*
England	175,000
London	249,500
Barnet	250,000
Westminster	499,972

It is not possible separately to identify shared ownership sales from the source.

Rescue Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what resources have been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* allocated to the New Dimension programme for improving capacity in the rescue services; and if he will make a statement. [2441]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have announced funding for the New Dimension programme of up to £188 million in capital and committed to meeting the resource consequences of that investment. To date the Government have invested £116 million in capital in the programme, and announced up to £16 million per year to meet the crewing costs of that investment.

Road Safety

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many gritting lorries are owned by each London borough. [2484]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While we do not hold any up to date figures for the London boroughs we do know that TfL has 32 gritting lorries and four pavement gritters.

South East England Regional Assembly

Anne Milton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what powers the South East England Regional Assembly has *(a)* to amend, *(b)* to delete and *(c)* to review (i) green belt designation, (ii) area of outstanding national beauty designation and (iii) site of special scientific interest designation. [3368]

Yvette Cooper: The South East England Regional Assembly may propose changes to the green belt as part of their responsibility for preparing a draft new Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (known as the South East Plan). All aspects of the South East Plan will be subject to public consultation and may be tested at public inquiry, before being finalised by Government. The Assembly have no powers to amend, delete or review Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

HOME OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the supply of drugs from Afghanistan to the UK. [2969]

Paul Goggins: The UK, as lead nation, is supporting the Afghan Government in the implementation of their comprehensive National Drug Control Strategy. We are working with others to increase activity in all areas of their strategy over the coming year.

As well as coordinating the activity of international partners, the UK is providing substantial financial and practical support—the Government will spend more than £50 million this year on counter narcotics work in Afghanistan, including £30 million on alternative livelihoods. In the last financial year we ran seven training courses on intelligence and investigation techniques for the Afghan Counter-Narcotics Police; supported five major seizures of opiates; provided a mobile forensic laboratory; and helped to establish regional law enforcement offices in seven provincial centres outside Kabul.

In addition, the UK is working with Afghanistan's neighbours and other main transit countries to increase international effort, build capacity and improve operational co-operation.

At our borders Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs deploy staff at ports and airports to cover high-risk arrivals. Officers use risk assessment techniques and specific intelligence, gathered from a variety of sources, to ensure that the resources available are utilised to best effect. They also use a range of equipment, such as drug detection scanners, to assist them.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been made with Tamworth residents since October 2003. [3326]

Hazel Blears: The number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts ("ABCs") made in the Tamworth area is not known as this information is not collected centrally. ABCs are voluntary agreements with no statutory basis and can be entered into by various local services such as

local authority social services or housing departments, Youth Inclusion and Support Panels or the police. They are therefore unsuitable for central data collection.

A recent survey carried out by the Home Office and sent to all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships estimated that 5,383 ABCs were made between October 2003 and September 2004.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* Waverley and *(c)* Surrey in each year since their creation. [3377]

Hazel Blears: The available information is given in the table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed in local government authority areas in Surrey, by period, from 1 June 2000[1] to 30 September 2004 (latest available)

	1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000	2001	2002	2003	1 January 2004 to 30 September 2004	Total
Surrey	2	2	2	5	19	30
Of which:						
Guildford Borough Council	1	—	—	1	6	8
Waverley Borough Council	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). During this period no ASBOs were reported as issued within Surrey pfa.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in Devon and Cornwall since 1 January 2004; and if he will make statement. [3039]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in Devon and Cornwall, as notified to the Home Office, from 1 January to 30 September 2004 (latest available) is 49.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Bolton metropolitan borough council, *(b)* Bury metropolitan borough council, *(c)* Manchester city council, *(d)* Oldham metropolitan borough council, *(e)* Rochdale metropolitan borough council, *(f)* Salford city council, *(g)* Stockport metropolitan borough council, *(h)* Tameside metropolitan borough council, *(i)* Trafford metropolitan borough council and *(j)* Wigan metropolitan borough council since April 1999. [3133]

Hazel Blears: The available information is given in the table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed in local government authority areas within the Greater Manchester criminal justice system area, up to 30 September 2004 (latest available)

Area	1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[1]	1 June 2000 to 30 September 2004
Greater Manchester	10	598
Of which:		
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	49
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	14
Manchester City Council	n/a	238
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	70
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	39
Salford Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	90
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	23
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	20
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	34
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	n/a	21

n/a = Not available.
[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa).

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to bring forward proposals to hear asylum applications offshore; and if he will make a statement. [2843]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have no plans to introduce offshore processing of asylum applications.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to speed up the asylum process. [2844]

Mr. McNulty: Our current targets for the processing of asylum claims are to: decide 75 per cent. of new asylum applications within two months; ensure that 65 per cent. of new substantive asylum applications are decided, including final appeal, within six months; take 60 per cent. of detained NSA designated list claimants who were certified as clearly unfounded and detained throughout the process from claim to removal within 14 days. In addition, as we made clear in the five-year strategy for asylum and immigration, "Controlling our Borders: Making migration work for Britain" which was published in February 2005 [Cm 6472], we are planning to introduce faster, tightly-managed processes for all new asylum claimants. Existing detained processes will continue alongside new, faster, non-detained processes which are currently being developed and will be implemented in phases which will include tight case-management as a specific feature.

Cannabis

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has given to police

officers on differentiating between varieties of cannabis with a high tetrahydrocannobinal content and varieties of lesser strength. [4057]

Paul Goggins: None. All varieties of cannabis are Class C drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Offences under the Act are not determined by cannabis's relative strength and neither is police action.

Children (Penal Custody)

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been received into penal custody on remand in each year since 1990, broken down by age. [900]

Fiona Mactaggart: The number of persons aged under 18 received into prison establishments on remand, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the table. Information is not available for 1990 or 1991.

Receptions of remand prisoners aged under 18 to prison establishments, by age[1]—England and Wales, 1992–2004

	14	15	16	17
1992	4	377	721	3,912
1993	—	454	907	3,943
1994	—	635	1,103	3,978
1995	—	643	1,248	4,069
1996	—	730	1,360	4,423
1997	—	677	1,298	4,650
1998	—	603	1,191	4,688
1999	—	521	1,159	4,720
2000	—	1,040	1,892	3,311
2001	—	477	994	3,507
2002	—	592	1,180	3,655
2003	—	597	1,188	3,353
2004	—	653	1,296	3,209

[1] Age at date of reception.

Community Support Officers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will provide financial assistance to large rural parish councils that receive no regular police patrols to employ community support officers. [2791]

Hazel Blears: Community Support Officers (CSOs) are employed by police authorities, and their deployment is an operational matter for the chief constable. At the end of March there were 6,300 in England and Wales. Funding is being made available over the next three years to assist in the recruitment of 24,000 CSOs by 2008. The investment will help deliver our commitment that by 2008 every area in England and Wales will benefit from a dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policy team.

Convictions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for each category of offence there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex in the last year for which figures are available. [399]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information contained in the table gives the number of offenders found guilty at all courts by category of offence for England and Essex, 2003.

Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts by offence type in England and Essex, 2003[1]

Offence type	England	Essex
Violence against the person	35,283	702
Sexual offences	4,100	77
Burglary	24,138	410
Robbery	7,112	84
Theft and handling stolen goods	112,455	2,457
Fraud and forgery	17,076	386
Criminal damage	10,304	402
Drug offences	47,172	896
Indictable motoring offences	8,056	183
Other indictable offences	48,419	799
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	456,991	13,932
Summary motoring offences	617,068	21,960
All offences	1,388,174	42,288

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

Crime

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of males in Leeds aged 40 or younger had a criminal record in the latest period for which figures are available. [1721]

Fiona Mactaggart: The data requested are not collected on a city or other regional basis. The most recent national figures on criminal careers were published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 4/01.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which age group in Leeds had the highest rate of offending in the latest period for which figures are available. [1733]

Fiona Mactaggart: The data contained in the table give the number of offenders found guilty at all courts in Leeds, by offence and age group, 2003.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts in Leeds by offence group, age group and population, 2003[1]

	Age group					
	10 to 17 years		18 to 20 years		21+ years	
Offence group	Found guilty	Found guilty per 10,000 population	Found guilty	Found guilty per 10,000 population	Found guilty	Found guilty per 10,000 population
Indictable	1,065	141	908	252	4,696	90
Summary non-motoring	440	58	305	85	4,829	93
Summary motoring	221	29	682	189	7,345	141
All offences	1,726	229	1,895	526	16,870	323

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition (Policing Costs)

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost of policing the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition in September is; and from which budget the funding will come. [3940]

Hazel Blears: The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis is responsible for the operational management of, and allocation of funding by, the force. I will ensure that he receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly in response to your concerns.

Departmental Refurbishment Costs

Mr. Benton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on refurbishment costs for the first floor of Litherland House since his Department commenced its occupation. [556]

Andy Burnham: Home Office Pay and Pensions Service took occupation of Litherland House in June 1998. Since that date £1,041,699.90 has been spent on works to the physical building.

Deportation

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recommendations for deportation in respect of convicted criminals have been made by the judiciary in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in each of the last three years. [2835]

Andy Burnham: The number of recommendations for deportation in respect of convicted criminals made by the judiciary in the last three years was:

	Number of recommendations
Magistrates courts	
2001	19
2002	24
2003	45
Crown courts	
2001	609
2002	543
2003	488

Domestic Abuse (Shrewsbury)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will provide financial assistance to establish a shelter for women who have suffered domestic abuse in Shrewsbury. [2792]

Paul Goggins: In 2003 the Government announced major investment in additional refuge provision in England over three years. A total of £32.1 million capital has been allocated (£15.7 million through the Housing Corporation and £16.4 million from the Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister), to provide 427 units of new or improved accommodation.

The allocation of funds was based on bids made by housing associations to the Housing Corporation. The bids were needs led and based on local priorities identified by local authorities in consultation with local domestic violence agencies. Priority was given to projects arising from local authority housing and homelessness strategy reviews. It was the responsibility of local authorities in partnership with the domestic violence agencies to identify gaps in refuge service provision at the time bids were being formulated.

Although there is no actual refuge in Shrewsbury, there are currently two refuge provisions for victims of domestic violence within Shropshire.

Dovegate Prison

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug crimes there were at Dovegate Prison during 2004-05. [1383]

Fiona Mactaggart: In the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 there were 158 proven offences against prison discipline involving drugs at HMP Dovegate, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on *(a)* staff and *(b)* prisoners took place at Dovegate Prison during 2004-05; how many instances there were of prisoners absconding or escaping from Dovegate Prison in that year; and how many instances there were of the finding of illicit alcohol at Dovegate Prison in that year. [1532]

Fiona Mactaggart: As recorded on the Prison Service IT system, in the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 there were 44 assaults on staff and six assaults on prisoners at HMP Dovegate; there were no absconds or escapes from HMP Dovegate in that year; there were six proven offences against prison discipline for knowingly consuming alcohol at HMP Dovegate in that year.

Drink-driving

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of breath-testing of drivers resulted in withdrawal of driving licences in England and Wales in the last period for which figures are available. [2403]

Paul Goggins: Information taken from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database for England and Wales shows that the total number of driving disqualifications imposed for breath test and specimen offences in 2003 (latest available) was 84,767. This figure does not include disqualifications as a result of 'totting up' of points on driving licence under s.35 of the Road Traffic offenders Act 1988.

Data for 2004 will be available early in 2006.

Information relating to Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

EU Accession Countries

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of EU accession state countries are registered to work in the UK. [1814]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* Provisional management information from the Worker Registration Scheme was published in the Accession Monitoring Report on 26 May 2005. The full report is available on the Home Office website at:

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/0/reports/accession_monitoring.html

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nationals of the EU accession countries have been convicted of crimes in the Greater London area in the last 12 months. [2836]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available. Data held on the Home Office Court Proceedings database do not include the nationality of the defendant.

EU Immigrants

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the number of people who have arrived in the UK from each of the new member states of the EU since their accession. [3630]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Malins, dated 14 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the number of people who have arrived in the UK from each of the new member states of the EU since their accession. I am replying in his absence. (3630)

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) provides information on visits to the UK. The figures cover visits of all lengths of stay and for all reasons (holiday visits; business visits; visits to friends or relatives; study visits; other tourists; migrants and non-tourists).

The data included in the table below have been published, and continue to be available on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. They can be accessed through the National Statistics website at the following address: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=12222.

Visits to the UK from residents of EU accession countries, May 2004 to April 2005
International Passenger Survey

Country	*Thousands Number of visits*
Accession-8	
Czech Republic	224
Estonia	33
Hungary	162
Latvia	64
Lithuania	97
Poland	838
Slovakia	140
Slovenia	43
Accession-8 total	1,604
Cyprus	51
Malta	56
Accession-10 total	1,711

Notes
1. The numbers of visits are estimated from data collected by the ONS International Passenger Survey. This year-round survey interviews approximately one in 500 passengers at all major UK airports, sea ports, and tunnel routes, as they arrive in or depart from the UK.
2. The data refer to number of visits to the UK rather than the number of people, since some may have travelled more than once.
3. The data presented here relate to non-UK residents arriving in the country, either as returning residents or as visitors or new migrants.

Fly-tipping

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many successful prosecutions there were for fly-tipping in each local authority in England in the last five years; [2498]

(2) how many successful prosecutions there have been of individuals for *(a)* dropping litter and *(b)* graffiti in (i) Brent East and (ii) each local authority in England. [2547]

Hazel Blears: The available information is contained in the table and gives the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for "fly-tipping" for petty sessional area, and by police force areas in England, 1999 to 2003.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for "fly-tipping" offences[1,2], Brent petty sessional area and police force areas in England, 1999 to 2003

Court/police force area	*1999*		*2000*		*2001*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Brent PSA[3]	—	—	1	1	4	3
Police force area						
Avon and Somerset	2	2	—	—	7	4
Bedfordshire	5	3	—	—	6	6
Cambridgeshire	3	2	1	1	—	—
Cheshire	4	5	7	7	6	4
Cleveland	4	4	8	5	2	1
Cumbria	2	2	5	3	7	5
Derbyshire	11	7	10	5	18	15
Devon and Cornwall	10	7	12	10	14	12
Dorset	1	1	2	2	1	—
Durham	1	1	3	3	—	1
Essex	10	10	22	15	18	11
Gloucestershire	3	3	1	—	4	3

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for "fly-tipping" offences[1,2], Brent petty sessional area and police force areas in England, 1999 to 2003

Court/police force area	1999 Proceeded against	1999 Found guilty	2000 Proceeded against	2000 Found guilty	2001 Proceeded against	2001 Found guilty
Greater Manchester	15	13	31	24	29	25
Hampshire	13	9	11	9	18	10
Hertfordshire	14	12	8	7	17	14
Humberside	8	8	4	3	7	6
Kent	—	—	—	—	2	2
Lancashire	32	22	41	30	23	19
Leicestershire	16	11	10	8	15	11
Lincolnshire	7	4	11	10	10	5
Merseyside	5	4	9	7	21	18
Metropolitan police[4]	90	37	90	55	138	102
Norfolk	2	2	1	1	1	—
North Yorkshire	9	9	3	2	10	7
Northamptonshire	7	3	5	5	2	2
Northumbria	15	10	33	31	9	10
Nottinghamshire	2	2	12	9	10	9
South Yorkshire	6	4	23	16	7	6
Staffordshire	7	3	—	—	2	2
Suffolk	3	3	4	3	5	2
Surrey	—	—	10	6	5	5
Sussex	17	15	15	11	19	16
Thames Valley	7	6	14	13	12	12
Warwickshire	2	0	2	3	1	—
West Mercia	13	10	9	8	28	12
West Midlands	52	42	19	16	35	23
West Yorkshire	21	17	32	26	30	22
Wiltshire	5	4	6	6	7	7
England	424	297	474	360	546	409

Court/police force area	2002 Proceeded against	2002 Found guilty	2003 Proceeded against	2003 Found guilty
Brent PSA[3]	9	8	2	1
Police force area				
Avon and Somerset	10	5	4	3
Bedfordshire	6	3	8	4
Cambridgeshire	—	1	—	1
Cheshire	9	5	17	14
Cleveland	6	3	9	6
Cumbria	4	6	12	9
Derbyshire	10	8	10	7
Devon and Cornwall	19	15	20	14
Dorset	7	2	1	2
Durham	—	—	1	1
Essex	8	5	13	11
Gloucestershire	3	3	2	2
Greater Manchester	31	30	39	30
Hampshire	18	14	8	5
Hertfordshire	13	10	23	15
Humberside	27	16	35	25
Kent	5	2	6	6
Lancashire	66	58	33	22
Leicestershire	7	6	—	—
Lincolnshire	13	14	9	7
Merseyside	4	4	2	2
Metropolitan police[4]	224	153	210	143
Norfolk	2	2	1	1
North Yorkshire	5	5	6	5
Northamptonshire	6	5	3	1
Northumbria	7	6	23	20
Nottinghamshire	3	3	11	11
South Yorkshire	15	13	17	11
Staffordshire	4	4	1	—
Suffolk	5	5	—	—
Surrey	21	15	11	9
Sussex	14	11	9	5
Thames Valley	22	15	27	23
Warwickshire	12	10	6	5
West Mercia	10	11	20	13

Court/police force area	2002 Proceeded against	2002 Found guilty	2003 Proceeded against	2003 Found guilty
West Midlands	37	30	46	34
West Yorkshire	21	14	18	9
Wiltshire	14	10	3	5
England	688	522	664	483

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes offences under: Environmental Protection Act 1990, sections 33 (6) (8) (9), 34 and 59.
[3] Includes those found guilty at the Crown court where Brent PSA was the committing court.
[4] Includes City of London.

Jury Trials

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to bring into force part seven of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to introduce the procedure for conducting complex criminal trials without a jury. [1903]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 7 June 2005]:* An announcement will be made shortly.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research the Department has conducted into alternatives to jury trial. [1771]

Fiona Mactaggart: In formulating the provisions for trial without a jury in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, account was taken of information about alternatives to jury trial (including procedures used in other jurisdictions) available from a variety of governmental and academic sources, and of the previous consideration of this issue by the Roskill Committee and Sir Robin Auld's Review of the Criminal Courts of England and Wales.

Life Sentences

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are serving life sentences in England and Wales. [2907]

Fiona Mactaggart: On 30 April 2005 there were 5,814 persons serving life sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system.

Information on Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for my colleagues in the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office.

Minicabs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of illegally operating an unlicensed minicab in each year since 1997. [2408]

Fiona Mactaggart: Statistics on the number of persons charged with a crime are not centrally collected.

Available information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of offenders convicted of illegally operating an unlicensed minicab are contained in the table.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

Number of people found guilty of certain offences in relation to illegally operating an unlicensed minicab, England and Wales 1997 to 2003[1]

Offence description	Statute	Year	Found guilty
To ply for hire or to accept passenger for hire within a parking place	Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Section 35 (7)	1997	2
		1998	—
		1999	3
		2000	1
		2001	1
		2002	24
		2003	1
Touting for hire car services in a public place	Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 Sec. 167	1997	170
		1998	159
		1999	147
		2000	127
		2001	141
		2002	182[2]
		2003	194
Offences peculiar to stage carriage and public service Vehicles	Metropolitan Public Carriage Act 1869 and order dated 30 December 1907 made thereunder by the secretary of State	1997	16
		1998	11
		1999	17
		2000	13
		2001	15
		2002	6
		2003	1

Number of people found guilty of certain offences in relation to illegally operating an unlicensed minicab, England and Wales 1997 to 2003[1]

Offence description	*Statute*	*Year*	*Found guilty*
Offences peculiar to stage carriage and public service Vehicles	Town Police Clauses Act1847 sec 40–68 (except the offence of drunkenness under section 61)	1997	443
		1998	608
		1999	532
		2000	499
		2001	352
		2002	391
		2003	268
Triable either way & summary offences[2]	Private Hire Vehicles(London) Act 1998	1997	•
		1998	•
		1999	—
		2000	—
		2001	—
		2002	—
		2003	—
Summary offences[2]	Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976	1997	n/a
		1998	n/a
		1999	n/a
		2000	n/a
		2001	n/a
		2002	n/a
		2003	n/a

• = Not applicable
n/a = Not available
[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Offenders convicted for summary offences under the Private Hire Vehicle (London) Act 1998 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 cannot be separately identified as they form part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be analysed.

Murder

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will carry out his planned review of the law relating to murder. [3093]

Fiona Mactaggart: I plan to announce the way forward for the Murder Review shortly.

New Hall Prison

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women at New Hall Prison have been represented by a solicitor at an adjudication hearing in each case; and how many women awarded additional days in each of the last five years. [1834]

Fiona Mactaggart: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Persistent and Priority Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition he uses of a persistent and priority offender; and what guidance has been given to local authorities. [1833]

Fiona Mactaggart: There is no national definition, as the Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) strategy was designed to allow local areas to tackle those offenders who are causing the most harm to their communities and have been identified locally through intelligence from the police and their partners.

In July 2004, we issued guidance to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships on the criteria which should be used in selecting prolific and other priority offenders. This recommended that selection should be based upon the nature and volume of the crimes an individual is committing; the nature and volume of other harm they are causing (e.g. as a result of their gang leadership or antisocial behaviour); and other local criteria, based on the impact of the individuals concerned on their local communities.

Police Convictions (Essex)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases there have been of police officers from Essex being convicted of offences, where all the proceedings have been completed, in each year since 2000. [1240]

Hazel Blears: Number of police officers in Essex police service convicted of criminal offences are as follows:

	Officers convicted of a criminal offence
1999–2000	6
2000–01	7
2001–02	6
2002–03	6
2003–04	7

Police Standards Unit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation has taken place of the Police Standards Unit since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [2894]

Hazel Blears: The effectiveness of the Police Standards Unit (PSU) is subject to the same performance scrutiny regime as every other Unit of the Home Office. The Unit will shortly be publishing its annual report which will set out its accomplishments over the period 2004–05.

In terms of the Unit's work with local areas, over 2003–04, the police forces with whom the PSU was engaged reduced volume crime by 13.3 per cent.—twice the rate of other forces in England and Wales.

Police/Crime Statistics (Wales)

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug rehabilitation places are available in prisons in Wales. [1071]

Fiona Mactaggart: There are 432 rehabilitation places available in prisons in Wales for 2005–06.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners whose last place of residence before sentence was in Wales are held in prisons in England. [1073]

Fiona Mactaggart: Information is not recorded centrally on the home address of prisoners in England and Wales. Information is, however, held on the court that a prisoner is sentenced by.

On 30 April 2005 there were 1,514 prisoners held under sentence in a prison establishment in England who were sentenced at a court in Wales, as recorded on the Prison Service central IT system.

Pre-sentence Reports

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many defendants in magistrates' courts in Greater London have been remanded *(a)* in custody and *(b)* on bail for pre-sentence reports in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available; how many of those have returned to court with no report prepared on the due date; and if he will make a statement. [2710]

Fiona Mactaggart: Information on the number of defendants held in *(a)* custody and *(b)* bail, for pre-sentence reports are not held centrally.

Prison Population

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the prison population in England and Wales is, broken down by gender. [2934]

Fiona Mactaggart: On 30 April 2005 there were 70,466 males and 4,425 females held in prison establishments in England and Wales, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system.

Prisoners

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the prison population had previously served a period in prison as a convicted prisoner *(a)* in the latest year for which figures are available and *(b)* 10 years earlier. [646]

Fiona Mactaggart: The table gives the percentage of the sentenced prison population with at least one previous sentence of imprisonment. The latest year for which figures are available is 2002. We do not have data readily available on previous sentences of imprisonment for those in prison 10 years earlier. The data for 1996 are shown as the earliest year for which these data are available.

Sentenced prison population by previous sentences of imprisonment[1]

Percentage	*2002*	*1996*
No information[2]	9	9
No previous sentence of imprisonment	38	46
At least one previous sentence of imprisonment	53	45

[1] Based on a sample of those in prison under sentence on the 30 June 2002 and 1996 respectively. The numbers are then weighted to give an estimate for all those in prison under sentence at that time.

[2] Data on the criminal history of the sentenced prison population are taken from the Offenders Index. It was not possible to find data on the criminal history of all convicted prisoners.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of persons arrested for a trigger offence under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have tested positive for drugs in the latest period for which figures are available. [2968]

Paul Goggins: The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced provisions for testing (for specified class A drugs) young people aged 14–17 years following charge for trigger offences. Adults may be tested at charge under provisions of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

At present, neither adults nor young people are tested at the point of arrest, although provisions for testing of adults following arrest for trigger offences were introduced in the Drugs Act 2005. There are no current plans to introduce testing on arrest for young people.

Testing on charge for young people is operational in 10 areas on a pilot basis. Management information collected in the pilot areas indicate that approximately 5 per cent. of those tested at charge test positive for specified class A drugs.

Prisons

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will break down by ethnicity the number of children received into *(a)* prison service custody, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* local authority secure children's homes in each of the last five years. [1826]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information requested is provided in the table. Information for prison establishments is as recorded on the Prison Service IT system. Annual figures are not available for prison establishments in 2003 as during this time the Prison Service implemented the 2001 Census ethnic categories.

Information for Secure Training Centres and Local Authority Secure Children's Homes has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board.

First receptions of persons aged under 18 to prison establishments, by ethnic group

England and Wales, 2000–04	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2004*
Total	9,401	9,098	8,887	8,110
White	7,756	7,316	7,008	6,370
Black	1,153	1,243	1,224	—

First receptions of persons aged under 18 to prison establishments, by ethnic group

England and Wales, 2000–04

	2000	2001	2002	2004
Mixed	—	—	—	385
Black or Black British	—	—	—	916
Asian or Asian British	—	—	—	362
South Asian	199	250	280	—
Chinese or Other	133	171	265	49
Unrecorded	160	118	110	25
1991 census codes	—	—	—	3

All offenders admitted to Secure Training Centres and Local Authority Secure Children's Homes by ethnic group

England and Wales, 2000–04

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	1,308	1,674	1,592	1,856	1,797
White	1,033	1,341	1,253	1,442	1,349
Mixed	107	119	117	150	166
Asian or Asian British	23	42	26	19	36
Black or Black British	106	137	158	177	148
Chinese or Other	7	3	14	25	20
Unrecorded	32	32	24	43	78

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* under 17 and *(c)* under 18 were in prison in London in each year since 1997. [2492]

Fiona Mactaggart: The population of females aged under 18 in prison establishments in London on 30 June in each year since 1997, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the table.

Population of under 18 females held in prison establishments, by type of custody London, 30 June

	Total	Untried	Convicted unsentenced	Immediate custodial sentence
Aged 15				
1997	—	—	—	—
1998	—	—	—	—
1999	1	—	—	1
2000	1	—	—	1
2001	1	—	—	1
2002	—	—	—	—
2003	—	—	—	—
2004	—	—	—	—
Aged 16				
1997	2	—	—	2
1998	—	—	—	—
1999	3	—	—	3
2000	3	—	—	3
2001	1	—	—	1
2002	3	—	—	3
2003	—	—	—	—
2004	—	—	—	—
Aged 17				
1997	12	2	4	6
1998	5	4	1	—
1999	7	3	—	4
2000	11	3	1	7
2001	8	4	2	2
2002	10	1	4	5
2003	11	7	2	2
2004	9	4	3	2

Regional Offender Managers

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary rates are for regional offender managers; and whether they have been awarded salary increases in the last financial year. [1835]

Fiona Mactaggart: The regional offender managers are paid on senior civil service (SCS) pay band one which ranges from a minimum of £54,788 to a ceiling of £115,616. They will be due an increase on 1 April each year in line with the SCS pay award.

Sentencing Guidelines

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Sentencing Guidelines Council plans to produce guidelines on sentencing of *(a)* sex offenders and *(b)* persons found guilty of robbery. [1381]

Fiona Mactaggart: The role of the Sentencing Guidelines Council is to issue guidance on all aspects of sentencing. It is assisted in formulating its guidance by the sentencing advisory panel.

The panel submitted advice on sexual offences to the council for consideration in March 2005. The advice on offences relating to robbery was presented in April 2004, and the advice itself was published in May 2004.

It is anticipated that the guidelines for both sexual offences and robbery will be in place by the end of 2005.

Teenage Girls (Grooming)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to tackle the "grooming" of teenage girls on the internet; and if he will make a statement. [2905]

Paul Goggins: The Task Force on Child Protection on the internet was established in March 2001 in response to concerns about the possible risks to children after a number of serious cases where children had been "groomed" via the internet.

The work of the Task Force have focused on the needs of children and in particular teenagers, under the age of consent, who are considered to be most at risk from paedophile "grooming".

Arising out of its work, we introduced legislation to tackle the sexual grooming of children under 16 both online and offline in the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Section 15 of the Act makes it an offence for a person aged 18 or over to meet intentionally, or to travel with the intention of meeting, a child under the age of 16 in any part of the world, if he has not met or communicated with that child on at least two prior occasions, and intends to commit a sexual offence against that child either at the time of the meeting or on a subsequent occasion. The offence has a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment.

To cover the kind of behaviour which might precede a meeting, and enable the police to take action at an earlier stage, Sections 123 to 129 of the Act provide for a new civil preventative order, the Risk of Sexual Harm Order (RSHO). The police can apply for this civil order against any person aged 18 or over who is thought to

pose a sexual risk to children under 16, provided that on at least two occasions, the defendant has done one of the acts listed. The acts include, among other things, communicating with a child, where any part of the communication is sexual. The minimum duration of an order is two years. Breach of an order, without reasonable excuse, is a criminal offence with a maximum penalty on indictment of five years' imprisonment.

The work of the Task Force has also extended to four national awareness campaigns since 2001 at a cost of over £3 million. These campaigns, carried out through cinema, radio and online advertising, have highlighted the measures that can be taken to promote safety online, and the new risks posed by emerging technology. In addition, over 1.5 million copies of a leaflet for parents called "Keeping your Child Safe on the Internet" have been distributed to schools in conjunction with the campaign. The Government have also provided online advice for children, parents and carers, in particular at www.thinkuknow.co.uk and www.parentscentre.gov.uk

Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to ratify the Warsaw Convention on trafficking in human beings. [3861]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The UK has not yet taken a decision on whether or not to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which opened for signature in Warsaw in May. There are certain provisions in the Convention which present concerns for the UK and which remain under active consideration. We want to resolve these issues before taking a decision on signature. We support fully all of the aims of the Convention and we too want to see widespread action to tackle this abhorrent trade at source, to protect and support the victims and bring those responsible to justice.

War Crimes

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made in the investigations for war crimes into the former members of the SS Galician division believed to be resident in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [2681]

Andy Burnham: The enquiries into the Galician division continue. We have identified several hundred individuals in the UK who may still be alive. We are working with other Government agencies to explore lines of enquiry to gather any available evidence.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will assess the merits of professional historians assisting the Metropolitan police in war crimes investigations; and if he will make a statement. [2684]

Hazel Blears: The Metropolitan police have in the past and continue to work closely with experts who provide valuable assistance to a wide range of investigations.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the resources available *(a)* to the Metropolitan Police to investigate and *(b)* to the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute alleged Nazi war criminals resident in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [2683]

Hazel Blears: The Metropolitan Police War Crimes Unit was disbanded in 1999. Responsibility then passed to the Anti-Terrorist Branch, which has a dedicated section to deal with Crimes Against Humanity. Expenditure is met from normal Metropolitan Police budgets. There are no current prosecutions.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a list of suspected Nazi war criminals believed to be resident in the UK was supplied to the UK by the USSR in 1988; and if he will make a statement. [2686]

Paul Goggins: A list of 34 suspects was supplied by the Soviet Union in June 1988, having originally been sent to Scottish Television. All of those names were investigated as part of the War Crimes Inquiry.

Weapon Sales (Prosecutions)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses have been prosecuted for the illegal sale of *(a)* knives, *(b)* replica guns and *(c)* firearms in (i) Brent East and (ii) each London borough in the last 12 months. [2549]

Hazel Blears: The available information on the Home Office Court Proceedings database shows that for Greenwich and Woolwich petty sessional area 2003 there were two defendants proceeded against for "Selling a firearm to a person without a certificate" (Firearms Act 1968 Sec 3(2) as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Section 8, part III). There were no other prosecutions in London magistrates' courts for the requested offences as notified to the Home Office Court Proceedings database.

Witness Protection

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further measures he plans to bring forward to prevent criminals and terrorists using coercion to obtain access to the identity of persons within witness protection programmes. [2780]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* Police forces and other law enforcement agencies are responsible for providing witness protection and they make full use of measures such as relocation and identity changes where the risk to the safety of a witness is serious or life threatening.

The provisions we have introduced in the Serious Organised Crime and Policing Act 2005 will greatly support this work. They provide an additional safeguard in the form of two new offences of disclosing information about protected witnesses or protection arrangements.

Law enforcement agencies believe that the legislation will also assist them in a number of other ways, most importantly in placing a statutory duty on public and private bodies to assist protection officers in setting up protection arrangements. This will overcome many of

the difficulties they face in obtaining the cooperation of such organisations. The provisions will also help programmes run more effectively by exempting protected witnesses who have had an identity change from criminal or civil liability in respect of failure to declare their original identities when asked to do so by these organisations.

We also provide more practical support to protection officers through the Witness Mobility Service, which has helped speed up the completion of witness protection arrangements and ensure that witnesses are moved to a place of safety as quickly as possible. We are planning to expand on this service through the establishment of a central services unit which will provide law enforcement agencies with other essential witness protection needs. Work is now under way to set up the unit, which we hope will be operational by spring 2006.

Young Offender Institutions

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of stay for sentenced juveniles in each young offender institution was in the last period for which figures are available.[897]

Fiona Mactaggart: The average length of stay per episode for a sample of sentenced prisoners aged under 18 who were discharged in 2003, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the table.

Average time served (including remand time) for a sample of sentenced prisoners aged under 18 England and Wales, 2003

	Average length of stay (days)
All	84
Ashfield	96
Brinsford	85
Brockhill	84
Bullwood Hall	98
Castington	91
Eastwood Park	75
Feltham	83
Hindley	82
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	114
Holloway	24
Huntercombe	99
Lancaster Farms	67
New Hall	143
Onley	88
Parc	23
Stoke Heath	77
Thorn Cross	62
Warren Hill	60
Werrington	84
Wetherby	87

HEALTH

Waiting Lists/Times

13. **Jonathan Shaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on in-patient waiting times. [3681]

Ms Hewitt: The NHS is continuing to make huge progress in providing faster access to hospital care. In 1997, 284,000 patients were waiting more than six months for operations; that number has now been reduced to 45,400 and by the end of the year it will be reduced to zero.

22. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for an out-patient appointment. [3690]

Mr. Byrne: There are now 30,222 patients referred by their GP who are waiting more than 13 weeks for their outpatient consultation, compared with 338,957 in June 1997. The NHS is on track to ensure that no patients are waiting more than 13 weeks by the end of 2005.

Hospitals (Lichfield)

14. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the progress of construction of the new hospital in Lichfield. [3682]

Caroline Flint: Work is currently under way for the provision of a new hospital to serve the residents of Lichfield and Burntwood. The new hospital will be located on the old St. Michael's hospital site in Lichfield and is scheduled for completion in winter 2006, receiving its first patients early in 2007.

Accident and Emergency Consultants (Lancashire)

16. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability of accident and emergency consultants in Lancashire. [3684]

Mr. Byrne: Within the Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority area, the national health service trusts in Lancashire have a total of 17 accident and emergency consultants as at December 2004. The most recent centrally held information on vacancy rates indicated that in March 2004 there were two vacancies which trusts were actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more.

Dentistry

17. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of residents in the South Leicestershire primary care trust area are registered with an NHS dentist. [3685]

Ms Rosie Winterton: At the end of March this year, there were 80,979 people registered with a dentist in the South Leicestershire Primary Care Trust area, which equates to 47.5 per cent. of the population.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the NHS dental patient charges review. [3683]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A Dental Charges Working Group, led by Harry Cayton, the Department of Health's Director for Patients and the Public, submitted proposals for a new system of dental charges to the Department last year. These proposals are being considered alongside information about the effects of the new pilot dentists' contracts on treatment patterns.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to establish better working relations between private dentistry and NHS dentistry. [2768]

Ms Rosie Winterton: *[holding answer 9 June]:* In March 2003, the Office of Fair Trading published a report of a market investigation, "The private dentistry

market in the UK", in response to a super-complaint from the Consumers Association. The report's main conclusion, which we accepted, was that consumers need better information to make properly informed choices about which dentists and treatments will best meet their needs. We have been working with the General Dental Council (GDC) on implementation of the report's recommendations. The GDC has just published a new version of its ethical guidance, "Standards for Dental Professionals", which includes the requirement that dentists give full information on proposed treatments and possible costs. In addition, the Dentists Act 1984 Amendment Order 2005, which was laid before Parliament on 25 May, includes a power for the GDC to establish a new private complaints system to investigate and resolve complaints from patients who have received private dental treatment including instances where patients have not been given a well-informed choice between national health service and private treatment.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure there is *(a)* co-ordination and *(b)* no duplication between the work of Methods Consulting and individual primary care trusts in recruiting dentists from Poland. [2769]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* Methods Consulting, on behalf of the Department, only recruit dentists from Poland to posts submitted by strategic health authorities to the Department and subsequently approved as suitable for international recruitment.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Polish dentists are practising in England as a result of the Department's central recruitment programme; and how many of those are working in the *(a)* General Dental Service, *(b)* Personal Dental Service, *(c)* Community Dental Service and *(d)* Hospital Dental Service. [2771]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* 114 Polish dentists are practising in England as a result of the Department's central recruitment programme.

All of these dentists are working under a personal dental service (PDS) contract. 108 are working in PDS pilots and six are based in the community dental service. None of the dentists work under a general dental services contract or are employed in the hospital dental service.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure adequate provision of NHS dentistry in the Kettering constituency; and if she will make a statement. [4169]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Northamptonshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust (PCT) has been allocated £298,000 to improve access to national health service dentistry, and plans to use these resources to provide more than 17,000 additional NHS dental patient registrations.

A dental access centre (DAC) has been opened in Corby to provide NHS urgent treatment to patients who are not registered with a dentist. One Polish dentist has been recruited to work at the DAC and a further four dentists from Poland will be starting work in the PCT area later this year.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the Clayton Report on NHS dental charges was *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* delivered to her Department; and on what date it will be published. [4562]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A dental charges working group, led by Harry Cayton, the Department's Director for Patients and the Public, was commissioned in June 2003 to consider and make proposals for a revised system of dental charges. The report on the group's work was submitted to the Department in March 2004. The group's findings are being considered alongside information about the effects of the new pilot dental contracts on treatment patterns. The written ministerial statement in January indicated that we would be consulting on a new system of dental charges in the summer. The Cayton report will be made available when we begin consultation on the draft charges regulations.

Primary Care Trusts

19. **Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for the future structure of primary care trusts. [3687]

Jane Kennedy: Primary care trusts are central to improving the health of their populations by commissioning high quality care. As we implement the next stage of the national health service reforms, including practice based commissioning and streamlining NHS management, PCTs will need to change and develop. These changes need to reflect local circumstances and form part of a structured programme for the NHS as a whole.

Hospitals (Parking Charges)

20. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure further car parking charges at hospitals are not introduced. [3688]

Mr. Byrne: It is a matter for individual national health service trusts to decide whether or not to charge for car parking, and the level of charges in the light of local circumstances. We have no plans to change this.

Stroke Care

21. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in improving stroke care for younger people. [3689]

Mr. Byrne: The national service framework for older people, launched in 2001, covered specifically the development of stroke services for all ages, including younger people. Between 1998 and October 2004, the proportion of hospitals in England treating stroke patients that have a specialist stroke service rose from 45 per cent. to 90 per cent.

Venous Thromboembolism

23. **Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Government's response to the second report of the Health Committee, Session

2004–05, on the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism in Hospitalised Patients, is expected to be published. [3691]

Caroline Flint: We are currently considering our response on this important topic of Venous Thromboembolism in hospitalised patients. It is our intention to respond to the Health Committee as soon as possible.

Acute Services (Northampton)

24. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve acute services in Northampton. [3692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Northampton general hospital has benefited from an £11.2 million investment in cancer services, including three new linear accelerators.

In addition, the Northampton general hospital NHS trust is also developing plans for a £300 million redevelopment of hospital services in Northampton. The strategic outline case has been approved by the strategic health authority and work is now in hand on the outline business case. It is hoped that work on the new hospital will begin 2010.

British Pregnancy Advisory Service

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has completed its investigation into the British Pregnancy Advisory Service; and if she will make a statement. [3686]

Caroline Flint: The Report was commissioned to the Chief Medical Officer by the previous Secretary of State. Decisions will be taken on the publication of the Report once the Secretary of State has considered the CMO's conclusions and recommendations. It would be inappropriate to comment any further at this stage.

Abortions

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many pregnancies were terminated in the United Kingdom in each year between 1975 and 2005 at fewer than *(a)* 28 weeks, *(b)* 24 weeks, *(c)* 22 weeks and *(d)* 12 weeks; [2329]

(2) how many terminations of pregnancy were carried out in the United Kingdom in each year between 1975 and 2005; [2330]

(3) how many patients under the age of 16 years had pregnancies terminated in each year between 1975 and 2004. [2331]

Caroline Flint: The available information is shown in the tables. The annual abortion data for 2004 will be published in July; the annual data for 2006 will be published next summer.

Legal abortions: total number of abortions, number of abortions at age under 16, and abortions by gestation[1], residents of England and Wales, 1975 to 2003

	Total	Age in years under 16	Gestation weeks[2] 0 to 11	12 to 19	20 to 23	24 and over
1975	106,224	3,570	74,464	26,993	847	124
1976	101,912	3,345	72,442	24,935	811	164
1977	102,677	3,581	73,218	24,712	912	183
1978	111,851	3,298	79,301	27,138	1,249	261
1979	120,611	3,534	84,634	30,004	1,486	281
1980	128,927	3,650	90,472	32,001	1,853	381

	Total	Age in years under 16	Gestation weeks[2] 0 to 12	13 to 22	23 to 24	25 and over
1981	128,581	3,531	108,472	18,694	296	104
1982	128,553	3,852	110,148	17,958	290	78
1983	127,375	4,087	108,861	18,021	311	87
1984	136,388	4,158	117,414	18,396	447	57
1985	141,101	4,002	122,252	18,354	440	31
1986	147,619	3,894	128,658	18,509	420	26
1987	156,191	3,765	135,782	19,911	463	24
1988	168,298	3,568	145,969	21,725	569	23
1989	170,463	3,383	149,765	20,166	511	19
1990	173,900	3,422	152,666	20,801	407	21
1991	167,376	3,158	147,494	19,444	380	58
1992	160,501	3,000	142,166	17,976	304	53
1993	157,846	3,083	140,405	17,035	342	61

	Total	Age in years under 16	Gestation weeks[2] 0 to 12	13 to 22	23 to 24	25–27
1994	156,539	3,246	139,207	16,927	323	49
1995	154,315	3,270	137,696	16,226	330	25
1996	167,916	3,645	148,819	18,614	397	59
1997	170,145	3,434	151,667	18,013	399	36
1998	177,871	3,759	158,327	19,036	445	30

	Total	Age in years under 16	Gestation weeks[2] 0 to 12	13 to 20	21 to 23[3]	24–27
1999	173,701	3,603	154,682	17,274	1,654	58
2000	175,542	3,748	154,908	18,790	1,745	65
2001	176,364	3,658	154,869	19,458	1,936	66

	Total	Age in years under 16	Gestation weeks[2] 4 to 12	13 to 21	22 to 23[3]	24–27
2002	175,932	3,733	153,730	20,840	1,245	73

	Total	Age in years under 16	Gestation weeks 4 to 12	13 to 21	22 and over
2003	181,582	3,967	158,449	21,768	1,365

[1] The way gestation length has been grouped for publication has changed several times since 1975 and this is reflected in the tables.
[2] Figures by gestation may not add to the total as they include terminations at gestations over 27 weeks and terminations at gestations unknown.
[3] Includes 24 weeks and 0 days.

Alcohol Consumption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average weekly consumption of alcohol for *(a)* men and *(b)* women has been in each of the last 10 years. [4623]

Caroline Flint: The average weekly alcohol consumption for 1992 to 2002 for men and women is shown in the table.

Average weekly alcohol consumption (mean units per week) by sex: 1992 to 2002—Persons aged 16 and over, England

	Men	Women
Unweighted		
1992	15.7	5.5
1994	15.4	5.6
1996	16.1	6.3
1998	16.4	6.4
Weighted		
1998	17.2	6.5
2000	17.1	7.1
2001	16.9	7.5
2002	17.0	7.6
Weighted base 2002 (thousands) = 100 per cent	16,781	19,160
Unweighted sample[1] 2002	5,906	6,889

[1] Data for 1998 onwards are weighted for non-response; table shows unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data, 1998 and 2000–02, the weighted base is the base for percentages. Bases for earlier years are of similar size and can be found in General Household Survey (GHS) reports for each year.
Source:
GHS, Office for National Statistics.

Antiviral Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the delivery of the stockpile of 14.6 million treatment courses of antiviral drugs, over and above the current stockpile of 100,000, for the purposes of combating avian influenza, will commence. [3445]

Caroline Flint: Monthly deliveries of antiviral drugs to create a national stockpile will commence in August 2005 and are due to be completed by December 2006.

Driving (Medical Fitness)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with her colleagues at the Department of Transport on the criteria for medical fitness to drive. [2565]

Caroline Flint: There have been no discussions with colleagues in the Department of Transport regarding the criteria for medical fitness to drive.

Advice on the setting and application of standards and the impact of medical conditions on driving in general is given to the Secretary of State for Transport by six honorary medical advisory panels. These cover the major relevant conditions, that is vision, diabetes, cardiology, neurology, psychiatric conditions and alcohol and substance misuse. All nominations to the panels are approved by the Royal College of Physician.

Any change to the standards set down in legislation will of course be subject to public consultation. The Department is included as a consultee in any such exercise.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome of discussions held at the recent Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting of 2–3 June was, with specific reference to *(a)* the Foods Supplements Directive, *(b)* pandemic influenza and *(c)* health claims made on foods. [3518]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1–3WS.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list key services set to transfer from Hemel Hempstead Hospital; and what the new location is in each case. [3990]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The information requested is not held centrally. Our policy of "Shifting the Balance of Power" means that the configuration of local services is a matter for the local national health service, working in partnership with its local community. Ministers have no formal part in this process, unless this matter is referred by the overview and scrutiny committee, and it would therefore not be appropriate for me to provide a detailed response to the comments made.

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is currently in the process of drawing up its outline business case (OBC) for the reconfiguration of health services in both counties. The SHA's OBC will be submitted to the Department for consideration in January 2006.

Hepatitis C

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will *(a)* set a maximum wait and *(b)* publish standards for levels of diagnosis and treatment for hepatitis C; and if she will make a statement. [1462]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* The maximum waiting time for a first outpatient appointment following general practitioner (GP) referral has been reduced to 17 weeks and will continue to fall to a maximum of 13 weeks by the end of 2005. By 2008, the maximum wait from GP referral to start of treatment, including outpatient appointments and any diagnostic tests, will be 18 weeks.

The level of diagnosis of hepatitis C will depend upon the number of individuals at risk of infection who are tested. In many cases, particularly those who injected drugs in the past, this will depend upon their coming forward. The recent and on-going awareness campaign aims to increase knowledge of hepatitis C among the public and particularly those who may have been exposed to the virus. Those at risk can then make informed decisions about whether to seek testing. Infected individuals can be referred for further specialist advice and treatment where indicated. There are currently no plans to set standards for the levels of diagnosis of hepatitis C, but progress will be monitored from the total number of laboratory-confirmed reports of hepatitis C infection collected by the Health Protection Agency.

Hot Weather-Related Conditions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* accident and emergency department attendances and *(b)* hospital admissions in England with a hot-weather related primary diagnosis, including sunburn, there have been in each year since 1997, broken down by age. [2154]

Caroline Flint: Diagnosis-specific data are not collected or held centrally on accident and emergency department attendances. However, it is collected by hospital admissions and the information available is shown in the table.

Count of finished admissions, admitted via accident and emergency, primary diagnosis hot weather related illness including sunburn, split by age group 0–14, 15–64 and 65+, NHS hospitals in England 1997–98 to 2003–04

	Finished admissions	Age bands		
	Total	0–14	15–64	65 +
1997–98	162	44	85	33
1998–99	127	45	72	10
1999–2000	176	52	103	21
2000–01	126	43	70	13
2001–02	144	51	76	17
2002–03	101	40	54	7
2003–04	188	62	95	31

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, Department of Health.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the UK influenza pandemic contingency plan will be updated to reflect the review of phases of pandemic influenza undertaken by the World Health Organisation. [265]

Caroline Flint: The United Kingdom influenza pandemic contingency plan published on 1 March is currently being updated to take into account comments invited, and a revised version will be published within the next few months. The revised plan will reflect the review of the pandemic influenza alert phases undertaken by the World Health Organization.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to monitor the development by NHS organisations of multi-agency contingency plans for an outbreak of pandemic influenza. [266]

Caroline Flint: Preparing for emergencies is part of the role of national health service trusts and includes arrangements for a multi-agency response. A designated influenza pandemic co-ordinator supported by an influenza planning committee in each primary care trust will have specific responsibility for the development, maintenance and testing of multi-agency contingency plans for a pandemic.

In addition, strategic health authorities (SHAs) will be responsible for monitoring the preparedness of NHS trusts in their area. SHAs are also involved in the regional resilience forums, which have an important role in co-ordinating planning between different agencies.

Leukaemia (High Voltage Lines)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government have commissioned research into a possible correlation between children living within 200 metres of high voltage lines at birth and risk of leukaemia; how many homes in England are estimated to be within 200 metres of high voltage power lines; and whether the Government plans to make recommendations regarding the safety of living near high voltage power lines. [3428]

Caroline Flint: The Department commissioned the work by Dr. Draper and colleagues on childhood cancer and distance from power lines, recently published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ Vol. 330, 4 June 2005). The study found higher rates of childhood leukaemia among those born within 600 metres of a power line

compared with those born further away. The rate was higher for those born within 200 metres than those between 200 and 600 metres. The authors have no satisfactory explanations for the results in terms of causation by magnetic fields. A response statement has been provided by the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) radiation protection division and is available on its website at: www.hpa.org.uk/radiation.

The study concerned high voltage power lines forming the National Grid in England and Wales, that is all 400 kilovolts (kV) and 275kV lines and a small fraction of 132kV lines. The National Grid Transco website notes that 139,000 homes in England and Wales, less than 1 per cent. of homes, are within 200 metres of their lines.

A number of population studies in the past that have linked magnetic field exposure with a raised incidence of childhood leukaemia but with no corresponding explanation. This led to the International Agency for Cancer Research to classify extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields as a "possible carcinogen". The World Health Organization and the HPA in this country have recommended additional research and, bearing in mind the scientific uncertainty, the need for further precautionary measures to be considered. Government officials have already started detailed discussions with industry, regulators, professional bodies and interest groups about how to respond and a stakeholder group has been set up with the intention of making practical and proportionate recommendations in the interests of society as a whole.

Monsanto's Toxin

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the health effects of Monsanto's toxin MON863. [3066]

Caroline Flint: MON863 is a genetically modified maize line, not a toxin.

Each genetically modified food is assessed for safety on a case by case basis before it is approved for marketing. This includes a consideration of the genetic modification itself and resulting protein and toxicology, nutrition and allergenicity studies. A wide range of safety data on GM maize MON863 was assessed by the European Food Safety Authority's genetically modified organism panel, which concluded that the maize would have no adverse effect on human health. This conclusion was endorsed by the United Kingdom advisory committee on novel foods and processes.

Parkinson's Disease

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of whether there is a link between pesticide use and the risk of contracting Parkinson's Disease. [3127]

Caroline Flint: The independent advisory committee on pesticides (ACP) provides authoritative advice to government on all aspects of pesticides. Last November, the ACP considered a report produced by its medical and toxicology panel on the possible links between pesticides and Parkinson's disease. At its meeting, the ACP concluded that, although this review indicated a correlation between recalled pesticide exposure and Parkinson's disease, it did not point to a particular toxic mechanism or a hazard from a specific compound or group of compounds.

However, the ACP did advise that further mechanistic and epidemiological research be carried out on the association between pesticide exposure and Parkinson's disease. The tender process has been organised by the pesticides safety directorate and has now finished. The research proposals are currently being peer reviewed with a view to the work being commissioned later this year.

School Meals

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Education and Skills on the setting of higher nutritional standards for school meals. [2752]

Caroline Flint: The Department for Education and Skills is leading on work to improve the school meals standards. The Department is supporting this work and Ministers and officials from both Departments have met regularly to discuss the setting of higher nutritional standards for school meals.

Second-hand Smoke

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to deal with the effect of second-hand smoke in the workplace. [3738]

Caroline Flint: Our plans were set out in the Queen's Speech for legislation to make the vast majority of enclosed public places and workplaces smoke-free within the next four years.

Soya Milk

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to introduce milk tokens for soya milk. [3104]

Caroline Flint: There are no plans to extend the scope of the current welfare food scheme tokens or the new healthy start vouchers to include soya based milk products. Expert advice from the committee on medical aspects of food policy concludes that soya milk is not as nutritionally adequate for infants and young children as cow's milk.

This is because soya based milk products are lower in energy than cow's milk, lack sufficient amounts of several vitamins and minerals, especially iron and zinc and are particularly low in calcium unless fortified.

Where a child has a diagnosed intolerance to cows milk a doctor may prescribe a suitable alternative. Prescriptions are, of course, free for children and those in receipt of income support.

With the inclusion of fresh fruit and vegetables to healthy start the scheme will, as well as providing greater nutritional choice, accommodate the needs of those with an intolerance to cow's milk and the dietary choices of vegetarians and vegans.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what targets have been set for *(a)* assessment and *(b)* treatment for breast cancer in Northern Ireland. [1443]

Mr. Woodward: In Northern Ireland, patients with suspected breast cancer are expected to be assessed by a specialist within two weeks of urgent referral by their GP. This two-week target for breast cancer patients has been in place since 1 August 2000. There are no formal targets for treatment time, but on the basis of the latest available information the vast majority of breast cancer patients receive treatment within six weeks of their diagnosis.

The Regional Cancer Services Framework is considering waiting times for cancer patients and is developing recommendations, which aim to improve the treatment and care for all people with cancer.

British-Irish Summit

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the outcome of the seventh British-Irish summit held on the Isle of Man on 20 May. [2194]

Angela E. Smith: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland was very pleased, so early in his new role, to have the opportunity to meet the Taoiseach and the Heads of the other BIC Administrations. They considered the subject of Telemedicine and its potential to assist in the delivery of health and social care across all member administrations.

The summit was highly successful and a copy of the official communiqué detailing the discussions which occurred at the meeting has been placed in the Library of the House. It is also available at the following website address; http://www.britishirishcouncil.org/documents/iom_summit.asp

Cardiac Surgery

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients from Northern Ireland had cardiac surgery performed outside the Province in each of the last five years. [1426]

Mr. Woodward: The number of patients from Northern Ireland who had cardiac surgery performed outside the Province in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

	Number of patients treated outside Northern Ireland
1999–2000	n/a
2000–01	n/a
2001–02	254
2002–03	401
2003–04	333

Notes:
1. Figures are not available for 1999–2000 or 2000–01.
2. Figures relate to patients whose treatment was purchased by Health and Social Services Boards.

Civil Servants

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland, broken down by area of responsibility. [1422]

Mr. Woodward: The total number of staff employed by the Department, including Health Estates Agency is 1,037. A table showing the breakdown of staff, per area of responsibility, is as follows.

Staff in post at 25 May 2005

Head of group	*Area of responsibility*	*Number of staff*
Permanent Secretary	Office of the Permanent Secretary	13
Deputy Secretary, Resources and Performance Management Group	Internal Audit Hyponatraemia Inquiry	18
	Personnel and Corporate Services	141
	Finance	59
	Information and Analysis	26
	Planning and Performance Management	27
Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning and Modernisation Group		2
	Modernisation Directorate	18
	Regional Strategy and Public Safety Directorate	30
	Human Resources	72
	Directorate of Information Systems	202
Deputy Secretary, Primary, Secondary and Community Care Group		2
	Primary Care	29
	Secondary Care	22
	Mental Health and Disability Services	24
	Family and Elderly Care Directorate	27

Staff in post at 25 May 2005

Head of group	*Area of responsibility*	*Number of staff*
Chief Medical Officer	Medical and Allied Services	26
	Public Health	1
	Health Services	1
	Health Development	35
	Medical Support Services	4
	Occupational Health Service	29
	Specific Services	4
	Employment Medical Advice	1
	Workforce Acute Services	1
Chief Nursing Officer	Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Group	12
Social Services Inspectorate	Social Services Inspectorate	22
	Childcare	20
Chief Dental Officer	Dental Services Group	9
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer	Pharmaceutical Advice and Services Group	11
Chief Executive, Health Estates Agency	Chief Executive and Corporate Services	17
	Estate Development	82
	Estate Policy	38
Mental Health Commission		10
Seconded Officers		2
Total		1,037

Costello Report

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 116W, whether each pro-forma letter received by his Department in relation to the Costello Report is treated as a single letter of support or opposition. [2264]

Angela E. Smith: In addition to recommending that transfer from primary to post-primary school should be on the basis of informed parental and pupil choice, with no reference to academic ability, the Post-Primary Review Working Group Report made a number of key recommendations. These include the introduction of an "Entitlement Framework" to guarantee pupils access to a wider choice of courses, and the development of a Pupil Profile. These and other recommendations have received a large measure of support, including from some of those opposed to the changes relating to academic selection. It is not, therefore, feasible or appropriate to categorise correspondence received by the Department as simply either supporting or opposing the Report as a whole.

Each letter received by the Department on these issues, whether part of a campaign or not, is treated on an individual basis.

Freedom of Information

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the costs to date for Northern Ireland Government departments resulting from individuals seeking information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [1398]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not collected routinely and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Fuel poverty

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the population in Northern Ireland is categorised as fuel poor. [4149]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2001 indicated that 33 per cent. of the population in Northern Ireland were classified as fuel poor. It is expected that the interim House Condition Survey, which is due to be published later this year, will indicate a reduction reflecting the Department for Social Development's efforts to reduce fuel poverty.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to tackle fuel poverty in Northern Ireland. [4150]

Mr. Hanson: The Department for Social Development's fuel poverty strategy which was launched last year sets stringent targets for the eradication of fuel poverty in vulnerable households and all social houses by 2010, and in non-vulnerable households by 2016. The Strategy is underpinned by a wide range of measures and programmes which both directly and indirectly tackle fuel poverty including the Warm Homes Scheme, winter fuel payments, cold weather payments and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's (NIHE) heating replacement programme. A Fuel Poverty Advisory Group and an Interdepartmental Group on Fuel Poverty have been established to monitor and review the fuel poverty strategy and ensure a partnership approach to tackling fuel poverty.

Hospital Consultants

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress in implementing the new consultant contract. [1406]

Mr. Woodward: The Department is fully committed to ensuring the full implementation of the new consultant contract in Northern Ireland at the earliest possible date, and continues to make progress towards this. Health and Personal Social Services employers have been instructed to agree job plans with consultants by 1 July 2005. Substantial additional funding has been provided to the Health and Personal Social Services to support implementation of the new contract and the Department is developing a range of measures to monitor implementation.

Housing Executive

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Housing Executive properties in each housing executive district in Northern Ireland are vacant; how many of those are awaiting refurbishment; and how many are available for use. [3497]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available in the form requested. However, the following table sets out by Housing Executive District office, the total number of vacant properties, and indicates those that have been identified for refurbishment and those that could be let. In addition the table shows those properties for which longer term use has still to be decided, because they are located in areas where there has been civil disturbance. Some of these may need repairs and may eventually come back into use. Also shown are those properties being used for decanting purposes and on which decisions on future use have still to be made. For completeness the table also shows those not available for letting due to planned demolition or sale.

Vacant housing executive properties

		In need of refurbishment			*Available for letting*	
Housing Executive District Office area	*Total vacant*	*Awaiting major repairs*[1]	*Major programmed schemes*[2]	*Undergoing urgent COT*[3] *repairs*	*Awaiting relet*	*Difficult to let*
Belfast 1	14	0	5	0	1	3
Belfast 2	202	51	46	0	0	5
Belfast 3	10	3	3	0	0	0
Belfast 4	344	34	34	0	0	45
Belfast 5	245	71	5	0	0	40
Belfast 6	224	13	27	2	2	0
Belfast 7	71	39	21	0	0	0
Area total	1,110	211	141	2	3	93
Bangor	188	18	76	0	0	0
Newtownards	233	47	111	0	3	5
Castlereagh	143	28	57	0	1	2
Lisburn (A/S)	314	70	150	0	4	14
Lisburn (D/F)	36	12	17	0	0	0
Downpatrick	62	16	5	0	0	0
Area total	976	191	416	0	8	21
Banbridge	64	11	31	9	1	1
Newry	132	16	42	1	0	0
Armagh	118	15	43	0	1	36
Lur/Brownlow	275	13	0	0	0	139
Portadown	67	22	13	0	0	15
Dungannon	111	12	2	0	0	46
Fermanagh	29	14	1	0	0	4
Area total	796	103	132	10	2	241
Ballymena	258	40	31	0	2	66
Antrim	195	11	66	0	2	0
Newtownabbey 1	152	12	68	0	0	7
Newtownabbey 2	157	34	1	0	0	0
Carrick	112	12	21	0	0	6
Larne	236	37	10	0	0	24
Ballycastle	14	4	5	0	1	0
Ballymoney	15	13	2	0	0	0
Coleraine	133	6	11	20	1	19
Area total	1,272	169	215	20	6	122
Waterloo Place	103	23	4	0	0	11
Waterside	74	25	20	0	0	5
Collon Terrace	18	16	0	0	0	0
Limavady	42	7	8	0	0	0
Magherafelt	39	10	2	1	0	3
Strabane	50	20	4	1	0	15
Omagh	110	12	34	0	0	47
Cookstown	30	9	0	1	1	0
Area total	466	122	72	3	1	81
NI	4,620	796	976	35	20	558

Housing Executive District Office area	May or may not be brought back into use		Not available for letting	
	Civil disturbance	Used for decanting	Approved for sale	Approved for demolition
Belfast 1	0	5	0	0
Belfast 2	5	5	0	90
Belfast 3	0	1	0	3
Belfast 4	38	63	1	129
Belfast 5	2	3	1	123
Belfast 6	89	6	2	83
Belfast 7	0	9	2	0
Area total	134	92	6	428
Bangor	1	43	3	47
Newtownards	8	21	5	33
Castlereagh	0	31	0	24
Lisburn (A/S)	1	57	0	18
Lisburn (D/F)	0	7	0	0
Downpatrick	0	8	1	32
Area total	10	167	9	154
Banbridge	0	6	1	4
Newry	0	38	0	35
Armagh	0	13	6	4
Lur/Brownlow	9	7	4	103
Portadown	9	2	0	6
Dungannon	32	3	3	13
Fermanagh	6	4	0	0
Area total	56	73	14	165
Ballymena	8	21	0	90
Antrim	0	14	94	8
Newtownabbey 1	1	31	0	33
Newtownabbey 2	4	80	0	38
Carrick	1	20	0	52
Larne	9	5	0	151
Ballycastle	0	4	0	0
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	55	13	0	8
Area total	78	188	94	380
Waterloo Place	0	21	0	44
Waterside	2	18	4	0
Collon Terrace	0	0	0	2
Limavady	1	26	0	0
Magherafelt	6	4	1	12
Strabane	4	5	0	1
Omagh	6	8	3	0
Cookstown	0	15	4	0
Area total	19	97	12	59
NI	297	617	135	1,186

[1] Dwellings identified as requiring major improvements
[2] Dwellings where work is under way
[3] Change of Tenancy Repairs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent in each housing executive district in Northern Ireland on accommodating those on the waiting list for housing in hostels, hotels or bed and breakfast establishments in each of the past five years for which figures are available. [3498]

Mr. Hanson: The information is not available in the form requested, or for the period specified. The Housing Executive makes use of a variety of types of housing such as self-contained or hostel accommodation and "shared" accommodation which may be a house in multiple occupation or a bed and breakfast establishment. However, the following table details expenditure on all temporary accommodation by Housing Executive administrative area and the out of hours service for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Temporary accommodation expenditure 2003-04 and 2004-05

Housing Executive administrative area	Expenditure (£) 2003-04	Expenditure (%) 2003-04	Expenditure (£) 2004-05	Expenditure (%) 2004-05
After hours services (province wide)	46,868	0.5	94,677	1.1
Belfast	4,486,946	53.5	3,785,300	47.8
North East	877,552	10	702,853	9
South	441,072	5	518,276	6.5

Temporary accommodation expenditure 2003–04 and 2004–05

Housing Executive administrative area	Expenditure (£) 2003–04	Expenditure (%) 2003–04	Expenditure (£) 2004–05	Expenditure (%) 2004–05
South East	1,417,812	17	1,569,957	20
West	1,206,910	14	1,234,306	15.6
Total	8,477,160	100	7,905,369	100

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of those on the waiting list for housing in each Housing Executive district in Northern Ireland are being accommodated in hostels, hotels or bed and breakfast establishments. [3499]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available. The Housing Executive has however provided details of the numbers placed in all forms of temporary accommodation, by its district office, as follows:

Number of cases currently in temporary accommodation

Housing Executive District Office area	Total
Belfast 1	60
Belfast 2	18
Belfast 3	129
Belfast 4	46
Belfast 5	2
Belfast 6	58
Belfast 7	39
Homeless Advice Centre	302
Belfast Area	654
Antrim	7
Ballycastle	1
Ballymena	33
Ballymoney	3
Carrickfergus	7
Coleraine	49
Lame	4
Newtownabbey 1	2
Newtownabbey 2	7
North East Area	113
Armagh	5
Banbridge	4
Dungannon	15
Fermanagh	24
Lurgan Brownlow	8
Newry	9
Portadown	10
South Area	75
Bangor	16
Castlereagh	11
Downpatrick	53
Lisburn Antrim Street	65
Lisburn Dairyfarm	70
Newtownards	16
South East Area	231
Collon Terrace	32
Cookstown	5
Limavady	0
Magherafelt	0
Omagh	3
Strabane	7
Waterloo Place	67
Waterside	30
West Area	144
Northern Ireland total	1,217

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are on the waiting list for housing in each housing executive district in Northern Ireland; and how many of those have been on the list for *(a)* less than one month, *(b)* between two and six months, *(c)* between six and eight months, *(d)* between eight and 10 months, *(e)* between 10 and 12 months and *(f)* longer than 12 months. [3500]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

Housing executive waiting list by district office and length of time on the list

Housing executive district office	< 1 month	1<2 months	2<6 months	6<8 months	8<10 months	10<12 months	>12 months	Total
Antrim	27	42	161	86	63	58	300	737
Armagh	5	36	124	55	56	46	262	584
Ballycastle	3	14	70	21	18	18	131	275
Ballymena	33	66	208	94	95	78	508	1,082
Ballymoney	5	11	65	32	44	25	145	327
Banbridge	6	29	94	44	28	25	195	421
Bangor	24	80	250	109	103	89	862	1,517
Belfast 1	6	44	144	62	58	43	625	982
Belfast 2	12	84	274	114	93	86	825	1,488
Belfast 3	6	34	121	61	67	45	615	949
Belfast 4	11	58	131	49	57	59	542	907
Belfast 5	10	60	153	47	53	35	313	671
Belfast 6	7	65	185	99	62	68	637	1,123
Belfast 7	18	79	324	139	146	133	949	1,788
Carrickfergus	3	45	164	53	65	64	455	849
Castlereagh	15	54	167	97	71	50	536	990
Coleraine	5	83	197	77	80	62	409	913
Cookstown		33	90	28	24	20	115	310
Downpatrick	2	40	177	94	90	55	470	928
Dungannon	5	36	137	55	48	52	266	599
Fermanagh	2	44	150	68	47	58	416	785
Larne	7	38	84	35	28	21	177	390
Limavady	7	36	97	30	32	31	170	403
Lisburn Antrim Street	13	91	272	129	110	96	111	1,488

Housing executive waiting list by district office and length of time on the list

Housing executive district office	*< 1 month*	*1 < 2 months*	*2 < 6 months*	*6 < 8 months*	*8 < 10 months*	*10 < 12 months*	*> 12 months*	*Total*
Lisburn Dairy Farm	15	49	105	53	39	40	264	565
Londonderry 1	10	48	133	57	55	52	328	683
Londonderry 2	8	55	111	42	47	59	217	545
Londonderry 3	12	46	115	54	47	47	264	585
Lurgan	9	54	176	86	59	56	360	800
Magherafelt	5	40	82	45	28	29	168	397
Newry	7	55	252	118	105	101	737	1,375
Newtownabbey 1	4	40	126	53	44	39	332	638
Newtownabbey 2	11	42	123	59	51	49	340	675
Newtownards	8	74	226	93	85	76	632	1,194
Omagh	1	46	123	48	43	44	167	472
Portadown	8	57	143	67	68	59	164	566
Strabane	18	47	116	41	55	45	285	607
Grand total	348	1,855	5,676	2,494	2,264	2,013	14,958	29,608

MRI Scans

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the most recent figures are for average waiting times for MRI scans in Northern Ireland. [1416]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* waiting times and *(b)* number of patients waiting for an MRI scan at the (i) Ulster hospital, Dundonald and (ii) Royal Victoria hospital, Belfast. [1417]

Mr. Woodward: Data supplied by (i) Ulster hospital, Dundonald and (ii) Royal Victoria hospital, Belfast showing the latest available information on waiting times/lists for MRI scans is provided as follows.

(i) *(a)* In-patient average waiting time 1–2 days. Out-patient average waiting time 3–4 weeks.

(i) *(b)* 183 patients waiting.

(ii) *(a)* Average waiting time for an urgent MRI scan is within six weeks. Average waiting time for a routine MRI scan is 3–9 months.

(ii) *(b)* Approximately 1,200 patients waiting.

NHS Dentistry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dentists were taking new NHS patients in Northern Ireland at the end of 2004. [2802]

Mr. Woodward: During the quarter ending December 2004, 654 dentists in Northern Ireland registered new patients for treatment under the NHS, that is, patients who had not been registered with them at the end of the previous quarter. These registrations may have resulted from patients moving between dentists or may have been re-registration of patients who have not attended the dentist for some time and whose registrations will therefore have expired. Registrations may also have been due to registering for the first time, for example, children or people coming to reside in Northern Ireland.

NHS Information Technology Systems

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who was instructed by the Eastern Health Board to produce a business case regarding implementing new information technology systems; when this instruction was given; what costs have been incurred; and if he will make a statement on progress. [1400]

Mr. Woodward: The information is not available in the form requested.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are to improve information technology within the NHS in the Province. [1401]

Mr. Woodward: The Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy, published in March 2005, sets out the long term vision for the use of ICT in the HPSS. It outlines a framework of activities to develop ICT in support of service modernisation. The HPSS ICT Programme, developed to deliver the HPSS ICT Strategy, was formally launched in March 2005. This programme encompasses the projects and activities required to develop and roll out new and enhanced ICT systems and support structures over a 10 year period, focusing on new and improved systems for electronic care records, electronic care communications and electronic information.

Among the many activities identified, the HPSS ICT Programme aims to establish an electronic integrated record for each individual using community services by 2008, with electronic care records in use across the whole of the HPSS by 2010. Also by 2010, technology will be available to care professionals at the point of need, whether at remote locations or in clinics, hospitals or health centres. The programme will also introduce electronic transfer of pathology results and digital imaging which will enable early diagnosis. Electronic referral and booking systems as well as electronic prescribing will give patients more choice and convenience.

NHS Staff

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by each health trust in the Province on temporary and locum staff in each of the last five years, broken down by profession. [1411]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is provided as follows:

Year to:	£000
31 March 2000	8,665
31 March 2001	13,155
31 March 2002	16,837
31 March 2003	23,022
31 March 2004[1]	30,857

[1] From 31 March 2004 temporary staff are also included in this expenditure total.

The figures provided in the table refer to expenditure classed as 'agency staff' in Health and Social Services Trust annual accounts. Only locum staff who are not placed on the payroll of the trust will be included in this category.

The information is not available centrally broken down by profession, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Porphyria

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance is provided to sufferers of porphyria in the Province. [1420]

Mr. Woodward: Porphyria is not one single condition but a group of seven related disorders that can cause a variety of signs and symptoms. Most of the conditions are inherited but some may be acquired. The treatment provided to people with porphyria will depend on which type of porphyria a patient has and the severity of the condition. A patient may be seen by consultants from general medicine, chemical pathology, dermatology or a combination of these as appropriate. In addition, the medical genetics service can offer appropriate genetic advice and gene testing.

School Discipline

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidance is issued to teachers by his Department as to whether and when it is justifiable for a member of teaching staff to raise their voice when dealing with an unruly pupil or student. [2197]

Angela E. Smith: No specific guidance has been issued on this subject. The Department's publication "Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour", distributed to all teachers, contains advice on dealing with aggressive pupils and confrontational situations. The advice emphasises keeping the emotional temperature as low as possible and dealing with the situation calmly and quietly.

School Sport

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what target is set by his Department in relation to the weekly allocation of time for sport in schools in Northern Ireland; and what percentage of schools in each education and library board area currently meet that target. [2158]

Angela E. Smith: Physical Education is, and will remain, part of the statutory curriculum for all pupils from age 4 to age 16. My Department does not however specify the amount of time schools should spend on any particular subject. Schools themselves determine how much time is devoted to Physical Education in the curriculum, but they are encouraged to offer pupils at least two hours a week of Physical Education, including sport. My Department does not keep records relating to how much time individual schools allocate to PE.

Specialist Elective Surgery Units

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress on developing specialist elective surgery units in the Province. [1403]

Mr. Woodward: Developing Better Services (DBS) endorses the concept of specialist elective surgery units as a means of protecting planned surgery from the peaks of emergency treatment and care. In line with the ministerial announcement on DBS of February 2003, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has been working with the Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts to develop protected elective capacity across Northern Ireland. As specifically designated in the DBS announcement, protected elective units are now in place at Lagan Valley and South Tyrone Hospitals. Protected elective capacity has also been established at the Mater, Altnagelvin, Causeway and Erne Hospitals, and is planned for other locations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which his Department is responsible available on-line. [3718]

Mr. Straw: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statue Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

Departmental Budget

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the budget for 2004–05 for public-facing activities has been spent to date, broken down by activity; and what future activities are planned. [1805]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The budget for 2004–05 for EU presidency related public-facing activities was fully spent. The work undertaken included the creation of a presidency identity, designing presidency information materials and recruiting media relations and marketing support to communicate presidency priorities to the public from July to December 2005. In respect of future

activities, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, South-West (Mr. Davidson) on 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 663W.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at what level the budget for public-facing activity for 2005–06 has been set, broken down by activity, and what sums have been allocated to each *(a)* activity and *(b)* budget line. [1806]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 663W to my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, South-West (Mr. Davidson).

Departmental Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3311]

Mr. Straw: None. There have been no requests from trade unions in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for this facility.

EU Directives

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many EU directives have been issued *(a)* in each month since 2000 and *(b)* in each year since 1975. [3729]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Based on the *Official Journal* of the European Union (Directory of Community Legislation in force and other acts of the Community institutions, Volume II, as at 1 January 2004) the approximate numbers of EC directives which have been enacted each year since 1975 are:

	Number of directives
1975	38
1976	39
1977	39
1978	72
1979	55
1980	40
1981	54
1982	75
1983	43
1984	55
1985	56
1986	54
1987	64
1989	132
1990	88
1991	146
1992	138
1993	170
1994	86
1995	75
1996	138
1997	143
1998	150
1999	166
2000	160
2001	187
2002	201
2003	233
2004	109

The number of directives adopted each month since 2000 is as follows:

Directives 2000–05

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
January	12	4	3	21	13	11
February	4	4	5	15	7	4
March	3	3	7	15	17	6
April	3	2	3	21	50	6
May	2	8	6	17	—	2
June	6	4	5	24	—	11
July	2	6	8	18	—	—
August	4	4	1	9	1	
September	3	1	4	10	—	
October	4	4	5	10	8	
November	4	4	6	8	1	
December	3	1	15	25	12	

A number of the directives adopted since 1975 will have been amended or repealed. But the exact figure is not held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain it.

European Constitution

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which provisions of the Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe can be made *(a)* without that Treaty being ratified and *(b)* under existing European treaties. [3762]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 991–92, on the EU Constitutional Treaty.

European Court of Justice

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list those decisions of the European Court of Justice where the court have found an item of European Community legislation to be in breach of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality; and if he will make a statement. [3275]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The European Court of Justice has not ruled that an item of European Community legislation is in breach of the principle of subsidiarity although arguments based on the principle have been advanced as the basis for striking down Community legislation in a number of cases, notably in C376/98 Germany *v.* European Parliament and Council [2000] European Court Report I–8419.

There have however been many cases over the years where the Court has been presented with legal arguments on the principle of proportionality. The Court's website provides a list of officially reported cases which refer to the principle. Some of these references are to summaries of the parties' pleadings; some are in opinions of the Advocates General; and some are in judgments of the Court. Because of the number of references to the principle of proportionality, I am unable to provide a comprehensive analysis of the instances in which the Court has struck down Community legislation on this basis due to the disproportionate cost that would be involved. The list can be found at:

http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=en&Submit=Submit&docj=docj&docop=docop&numaff=&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=%22principle+of+proportionality%22&resmax=100

Alternatively, a list of cases in which the Court dealt with legal questions on the principle of proportionality can be found in the 'Alphabetical Subject Matter' section of the Court's website (www.curia.eu.int) under 'Principes generaux du droit communautaire'. The case references are under the heading 'Proportionnalité'. This section is only available in French.

European External Action Service

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what preparatory work has been carried out in relation to the European External Action Service. [2674]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The preparatory work on the European External Action Service, as tasked by the October Intergovernmental Conference and the December European Council, has consisted of official level discussions and an "issues paper" presented jointly by High Representative Solana and Commission President Barrosso. Discussions are at an early stage and no conclusions have been reached. The Commission and Council Secretariat have written a joint progress report on the official level discussion which the Government have placed in the Library of the House.

Falkland Islands (Fish Stocks)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to help maintain fish stocks in the seas surrounding the Falkland Islands. [2958]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Falkland Islands Government are responsible for the management and conservation offish stocks in the Falkland Islands Conservation Zones. Falkland Islands' fisheries legislation and policies establish a precautionary approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks in Falklands' waters. A new draft Bill on Fisheries Conservation and Management, which is currently under consideration in the islands, contains provisions to strengthen this further. In parallel, the Falkland Islands Government operate an effective fisheries surveillance and enforcement regime to counter illegal fishing activities which represent a continuing threat to the conservation offish stocks in this region.

The UK Government take part in the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission, a bilateral body established by the UK and Argentine Governments to address the conservation of straddling and migratory fish stocks in the South West Atlantic, and which provides a mechanism for scientific co-operation aimed at conserving the principal fish species straddling Argentine and Falklands waters. The Commission meets biannually.

Foreign State Awards

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will change the policy which prevents British citizens accepting and wearing foreign state awards; and if he will make a statement about the offer by the Malaysian Government to award the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to British citizens who served between 1957 and 1966. [4557]

Mr. Straw: The question of seeking permission for the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal to be accepted and worn by British citizens was raised formally by the Malaysian authorities in March, when their Deputy Prime Minister spoke to me about it. We have subsequently received more details about the proposal from the Malaysian High Commission.

In the light of the Malaysian Government's request to present the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to British Citizens, I have asked for certain principles of the Government's rules governing the accepting and wearing of foreign awards to be reviewed.

G8 Summit

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have requested the deployment of armed service personnel on United Kingdom soil to guard *(a)* the G8 summit and *(b)* Prestwick Airport. [4004]

Mr. Straw: The diplomatic mission of the country concerned makes requests for the protection of VIPs visiting the United Kingdom to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Where it is agreed that protection is appropriate, the Police Service provides that protection. For obvious reasons of security, details of requests submitted on protection provided are not made public.

Guantanamo Bay

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the United States Administration on inappropriate treatment of the Koran at Guantanamo Bay. [3080]

Dr. Howells: We have expressed our concern to the US authorities about the conditions of detention at Guantanamo Bay on many occasions. British officials conducting welfare visits to the British detainees checked that the detainees' religious requirements were met.

We understand that detainees are given copies of the Koran, prayer mats and Halal food, and that prayer calls are made throughout the Camp.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iraqi Government to urge them to sign up to the Ottawa Convention; and if he will make a statement. [3111]

Mr. Straw: The United Kingdom is strongly committed to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (the "Mine Ban Treaty"). The UK was among the first states to sign and ratify the Convention, which entered into force on 1 March 1999, and is proud

of its record with respect to implementation of the Convention. To be fully effective, the ban on anti-personnel landmines must be universal. The United Kingdom urges all states that have not signed the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the state of the environment in Iraq, with particular reference to *(a)* oil pollution, *(b)* looted nuclear compounds and *(c)* chemical pollution. [3126]

Dr. Howells: We welcome the appointment, in May 2005, of Narmin Othman as the new Minister of the Environment for Iraq. The Ministry was created under the Coalition Provisional Authority in 2003. Iraq faces many environmental challenges following the neglect and abuse inflicted by Saddam Hussein's regime. Getting an up to date Environmental Law on the statute books is an environmental priority.

The UK Government are working closely with the Government of Iraq to develop the principles of good governance in the oil sector. In January and February this year the Tigris was polluted by oil slicks emanating from sabotaged pipelines. Booms were successfully deployed to prevent contamination of drinking water plants along the river. Oil pollution is also evident in the marshland and desert areas around Basra, particularly where saboteurs breached pipelines.

We are aware of reports of people in the area of the Al Tuwaitha nuclear facility having looted drums and containers, emptied low-enriched uranium from them, and taken the containers off to use for water storage. Separate reports of children playing with the uranium powder on the site have also been made, but we have seen no confirmation of these. The site has now been secured, and the radio-active material there returned to safe storage. We are not aware of any further looting taking place, and much of the remaining material was subsequently removed from Iraq by US experts, with the consent of the Iraqi Interim Government and keeping the IAEA informed. Initial indications are that there was little or no immediate radiation sickness evident in the population, but there might well be longer term health risks to people who were exposed to radiation. An inter-agency task force was set up in Baghdad in October 2004 to take forward action on recovering radio-active material that has been taken from the site, and monitor the long-term health of people at risk of exposure to radiation.

We have no information on chemical pollution in Iraq. However, disposal of chemical and hazardous waste is a significant problem. The US embassy estimates that there may be 5,000 chemical waste sites across Iraq which fail basic international environmental standards.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has a $5 million programme in Iraq aimed at capacity building and in particular to train staff to assess the extent of environmental hazards. The Department for International Development has contributed £717,000 towards UNEP's work on post-conflict environmental assessment and to support the Environment Ministry.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4121]

Mr. Straw: We do not have a central record of the numbers of laptops issued as budgets have been devolved to overseas post and UK directorates. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

One laptop computer has been centrally reported lost or stolen in the past two years. We do not have earlier records.

Lebanon

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the results achieved by Hezbollah in the recent parliamentary elections in South Lebanon. [3294]

Dr. Howells: The Hizballah-Amal-Future list of candidates took all 23 seats in the elections held in South Lebanon on 5 June. We are looking for all parties, including Hizballah, to comply fully with the requirements of United Security Council Resolution 1559, and call on Hizballah to renounce terrorism and contribute towards regional security by not escalating tensions along the Blue Line.

The three rounds of elections to date, in Beirut, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon and the Beka'a have passed off without incident.

Overseas Corruption

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library the most recent guidance to UK embassies on overseas bribery. [3909]

Mr. Straw: The latest guidance on foreign bribery to British diplomatic missions is already available in the Library of the House. The Government are in the process of reviewing this and will place the revised guidance in the Library of the House later this year.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many allegations of overseas corruption have been forwarded by UK embassies overseas to London; and how many of these allegations the Department has forwarded to the law enforcement authorities. [3910]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) sends to the law enforcement authorities all allegations of overseas corruption where it is reasonable to believe that an offence may have been committed under Part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. Since the Act came into force in February 2002, the FCO has forwarded a total of 18 such allegations, the majority of which originated in reports from overseas missions.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3531]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Valuing Diversity course includes a section on the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. This course is mandatory for all FCO staff. The course is delivered twice a month. In addition, staff who take on specific roles, for example heads and deputy heads of our overseas posts, and new staff joining the FCO, are briefed on diversity issues including the RR(A)A. Guidance for FCO staff on the RR(A)A is available on the FCO's internal intranet. This guidance includes the FCO's new Race Equality Scheme 2005–08, which is being circulated to all FCO departments and posts, and is available on our website, www.fco.gov.uk

In the 2004–05 financial year, 340 members of staff, 5 per cent. of the total number of UK based FCO staff, attended. This is broken down by grade in Table 1.

Grade	*Numbers attended*	*HCS grade equivalent*
A1	50	AA
A2	56	AO
B3	48	EO
C4	41	HEO
C5	19	SEO
D6	29	Grade 7 (Principal)
D7	8	Grade 6 (Senior Principal)
SMS	23	SCS pay bands 1–4
Unknown	66	

Under the employment duty of the RR(A)A we are required to monitor employment factors such as recruitment and promotion. It has not yet been possible to collect data on staff applying for and attending training courses broken down by ethnicity. However, we are working to establish a mechanism to monitor training using the FCO's information management system, Prism. We have asked the development team for a standard report to be available on Prism which will enable ethnicity data to be taken from staff records for all training courses attended. This report should be available in about four months' time.

Romania

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Romania; and what assessment he has made of the likely timetable for Romania becoming an EU member. [3651]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary would like to visit Romania when his diary permits.

Romania signed its Accession Treaty with the EU on 25 April this year and is scheduled to join in January 2007 provided it fulfils its EU commitments. The Commission will produce a report for the Council of Ministers assessing Romania's progress against its EU obligations in autumn 2005.

Trafficking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's position is on the US State Department's citing of *(a)* Kuwait, *(b)* Saudi Arabia, *(c)* the United Arab Emirates and *(d)* Qatar for their responsibility for trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [3097]

Dr. Howells: Human trafficking is a global crime involving many source, transit and destination countries. We welcome the US State Department's 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report for raising awareness of the problem and seeking to promote action to resolve it. The UK is committed to doing all it can to combat trafficking, including working closely with governments around the world. We encourage those governments cited to increase their efforts to eliminate it.

DEFENCE

Absence without Leave

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trained personnel have gone absent without leave in each of the services in each of the last five years. [4253]

Mr. Touhig: The number of service personnel[1] who have gone absent without leave in each of the last five years is as follows:

Navy

Calendar year	*Total number reported AWOL (rounded to the nearest 5)*
2000	50
2001	85
2002	90
2003	115
2004	185

Royal Marines

Calendar year	*Total number reported AWOL (rounded to the nearest 5)*
2000	20
2001	15
2002	20
2003	15
2004	22

Figures include trained and untrained strength.

Army

Calendar year	*Total number reported AWOL (rounded to the nearest 5)*
2000	2,725
2001	2,670
2002	2,970
2003	2,825
2004	3,005

RAF

Financial year	*Total number reported AWOL (rounded to the nearest 5)*
2000–01	20
2001–02	15
2002–03	25
2003–04	25
2004–05	40

Recording absence differs between the Naval Service, the Army and the RAF. The Naval Service and the Army record multiple periods of absence by the same person. However, the RAF registers an individual once, regardless of how many times they are absent within a financial year.

Afghanistan

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other allied countries in support of military and security efforts in Afghanistan since 2002–03. [3637]

Mr. Ingram: The net additional costs of operations in Afghanistan are published each year in the Ministry of Defence's Annual Report and Accounts. Costs for financial year 2002–03 were £311 million and for 2003–04 £46 million. Costs for financial year 2004–05 will be published in the MOD's next Annual Report and Accounts in the autumn.

Costs incurred by other allied countries are a matter for them.

Darfur

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role is envisaged for NATO in the Darfur region; and if he will make a statement. [3750]

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether it is the Government's policy that coordination of the EU and NATO efforts in Darfur should be done through NATO's military headquarters in Mons, Belgium; [3969]

(2) what resources his Department plans to make available to *(a)* the EU and *(b)* NATO for operations in Darfur; [3970]

(3) which European countries have declared resources available to *(a)* the EU and *(b)* NATO for operations in Darfur; [3971]

(4) what form of assistance and support *(a)* NATO and *(b)* the EU plan to offer in order to support the African Union in its mission in Darfur. [3972]

John Reid: The Government continue to support the international community's efforts to support the African Union mission in Darfur, notably through the UN, NATO and the EU. All these organisations have an important and complementary role to play in providing support to the work of the AU. What matters is that this support is provided through the most effective means, is in line with African Union requirements, and respects African ownership, through close co-operation between the supporting bodies.

NATO will support the AU mission through provision of airlift and the training of AU personnel. Individual contributions of airlift under the auspices of NATO will be clarified following a joint NATO/EU Donor Airlift Nation Movement Planning Conference on 15 June. The provision of training will be from within NATO's command structure.

The EU has supported the AU mission since its inception: the European Commission has allocated €92 million and provided logistical and planning support. The EU is now in the process of bringing together a further consolidated offer of assistance to support both the military and police aspects of the AU mission, including provision of equipment and assets, planning and technical assistance, and training. It is supporting the development of a police unit within the AU. Some member states also want to provide their airlift support under EU auspices.

The African Union is leading the operation and managing offers of assistance. There is no operational command and control role for either the EU or NATO. As the EU's support is a co-ordinated civil-military effort, the Government do not believe that it can be co-ordinated using NATO's military headquarters at Mons. However, both organisations are working closely together to co-ordinate their military offers, including through joint support to a single AU co-ordination cell for airlift at Addis Ababa.

On 13 June the Secretary of State for International Development announced that the UK will increase its contribution to the expansion of the AU mission to £19 million. This brings the UK Government's total contribution to the AU mission since its inception to almost £32 million. The Ministry of Defence has contributed to this support, which includes the purchase of vehicles, training for military observers, advice on logistics, and airlift. As part of the support to the expansion of the AU mission, the Ministry of Defence is offering two logistic planners within the EU's support to the AU's Joint Logistic Operation Centre at El Fashir, Sudan; and a mobile air movements team of up to 15 people to NATO if required.

European countries including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey have all pledged financial assistance and/or declared other resources available for operations in Darfur. Many of these offers are still being finalised and may be made through the EU or NATO depending on the nature of the offer.

EU Defence Co-operation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government have *(a)* notified their intentions to the European Council to participate

in the permanent structured co-operation in respect of the most demanding military missions and *(b)* made the commitments on military capabilities set out in the Protocol on permanent structured co-operation. [3253]

John Reid: No. The arrangements for participating in permanent structured co-operation and for making commitments under the Protocol are not yet in force as the Constitutional Treaty has not been ratified.

Nuclear Weapons

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on preliminary *(a)* studies and *(b)* projects relating to the possible next generation of British nuclear weapons in each of the past four years; and what sums have been earmarked for expenditure in each of the next four years. [2000]

John Reid *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* Decisions on whether to replace the UK's current nuclear deterrent have not yet been taken. We will continue to take appropriate steps to ensure that the range of options for maintaining a nuclear deterrent capability is kept open until that point, in line with the policy set out in the December 2003 Defence White Paper (Cm 6041–1). This includes sustainment of capabilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. It is not possible precisely to assign costs at Aldermaston between work to support current and possible future deterrent systems. Future spending plans in this area have yet to be finalised.

Territorial Army

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the Territorial Army centres in London; and if he will make a statement. [4658]

Mr. Touhig: The Territorial Army is currently being rebalanced to align with the changes to the Regular Army under the Future Army Structures work. We do not anticipate that this will result in significant change to the existing Territorial Army Estate, including in London.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the Royal Navy has for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles at sea; what the budget level of expenditure on such vehicles over the next 10 years is; and if he will make a statement. [2352]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently no funded plans to provide military capabilities using unmanned aerial vehicles at sea. Current work is focused on experimentation under the Joint UAV Experimentation Programme (JUEP) to inform the development of user requirements and possible future programmes, including maritime applications. For example, in March 2005 successful trials were conducted at Benbecula, Scotland, in which a UAV was launched and recovered from land but controlled in flight by a Royal Navy warship. We aim to build on this work.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons passengers using transit flights are exempt from air passenger duty; and if he will assess the environmental effects of this exemption. [4474]

John Healey: Not all transit flights are exempt from air passenger duty and in order to qualify specific criteria must be met. These are set out in HM Revenue and Customs' Public Notice 551, which can be obtained from the Revenue and Customs website at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Exempting connecting flights ensures that passengers are not taxed twice for a journey simply because they have to make a connecting flight.

The Chancellor keeps under review the structure of all taxes, including the environmental, social and economic effects of exemptions.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money was raised in air passenger duty in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [4186]

John Healey: The amount of Air Passenger Duty received in each of the last five years was:

	£ million
2000	931
2001	834
2002	809
2003	778
2004	856

These figures are published online in the HMRC Air Passenger Duty Bulletin at www.uktradeinfo.com.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* incidence of and *(b)* mortality rate from breast cancer in women under 40 years has been in each year since 1975. [3352]

John Healey: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Andrew Lansley, dated 14 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the *(a)* incidence of and *(b)* mortality rate from breast cancer in women under 40 years has been in each year since 1975. I am replying in his absence. (3352)

The most recent available incidence figures are for the year 2002 and the most recent mortality figures are for the year 2004. Age-standardised incidence and mortality rates (directly standardised to the European standard population) for breast cancer in women aged under 40 in England, for each available year since 1975 are given in the attached table.

Directly age-standardised incidence and mortality rates[1] of breast[2] cancer in women aged under 40 in England, 1975–2004[3]

	Incidence	Mortality
1975	9.4	3.1
1976	9.5	2.7
1977	9.9	2.9
1978	9.9	3.1
1979	9.0	2.9
1980	9.3	2.8
1981	9.7	3.0
1982	9.8	2.9
1983	9.9	2.9
1984	9.8	3.0
1985	10.3	2.8
1986	11.2	2.9
1987	11.0	2.8
1988	10.5	2.9
1989	11.4	3.1
1990	10.8	2.7
1991	11.2	2.4
1992	12.0	2.6
1993	11.5	2.4
1994	11.9	2.7
1995	11.9	2.4
1996	12.2	2.4
1997	12.0	2.5
1998	12.7	2.3
1999	12.9	2.2
2000	12.1	2.4
2001	12.0	2.2
2002	12.0	2.1
2003	n/a	2.0
2004	n/a	1.8

[1] Age-standardised rates per 100,000 population are directly standardised to the European standard population. In detailed analyses of trends in incidence and mortality over time for a particular cancer, ONS use age-standardised rates. These control for differences in the size and age structure of the population and allow unbiased comparison of rates over time.

[2] From 1975 to 1978, International Classification of Diseases, Eight Revision (ICD-8) code 174; from 1992 to 1994, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 174; from 1995 to 2001, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.

[3] The mortality rate for 2004 is provisional: derived from deaths registered in the calendar year (rather than deaths occurring in the calendar year) and the rate is based on the mid-year populations for 2003 (as those for 2004 were not available).

n/a = not available

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Council tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the forecast revenue is from council tax in England in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06. [4619]

John Healey: Net council tax income for England as budgeted for 2004–05 was £17,552 million. Final outturn figures for that year will be published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 23 June. Net council tax income as budgeted for 2005–06 will be published in November in Local Government Finance Statistics No 16 : 2005.

Emigration

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 147W, on emigration, how many UK citizens have emigrated from the UK in each year since 1990. [4182]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. John Hemming, dated 14 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the number of UK citizens emigrating from the United Kingdom in each year since 1990.I am replying in his absence. (4182)

Estimates of UK citizens emigrating from the UK from 1991 to 2003 are shown in the attached table. The figures are derived from the most comprehensive estimate of migration produced by the Office for National Statistics, Total International Migration (TIM), which is based on a number of sources.

TIM estimates using the current methodology are only available from 1991 onwards. The latest estimates, for 2003, were published in the annual reference volume International Migration, Series MN no. 30, on the National Statistics website at the link below on 28th April 2005. Note that Table 2.1 in this volume shows a time series of TIM from 1994 to 2003 by various groupings of citizenship for the UK, and for England and Wales: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Productasp?vlnk = 507

Total international migration[1]: 1991 to 2003 British Citizenship[2]

United Kingdom (thousand)

	Inflow (immigration to the UK)	Outflow (emigration from the UK)	Balance
1991	109.4	154.4	-45.0
1992	92.6	155.1	-62.5
1993	85.9	148.7	-62.7
1994	108.3	125.1	-16.8
1995	83.9	135.5	-51.6
1996	93.6	155.7	-62.1
1997	88.9	148.7	-59.8
1998	103.1	125.8	-22.7
1999	116.4	139.2	-22.8
2000	104.1	161.1	-57.0
2001	106.3	159.2	-53.0
2002	94.6	185.7	-91.1
2003	105.8	190.9	-85.2

[1] Data for 1991–03 are based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey. Includes adjustments for (1) those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes; (2) asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS; and (3) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

[2] Citizenship is defined as the nationality of the passport that the traveller is carrying. The British Nationality Act 1981, which came into force on 1st January 1983, replaced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies, with British citizenship, British Overseas citizenship, and British Dependent Territories citizenship.

Notes:

+ Denotes a net inflow figure.

- Denotes a net outflow figure.

Source:

From Table 2.1 from the MN Series (latest publication no.30) published at:http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk = 507&More = N

Euro

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contingency plans his Department has put in place in the event that countries in the euro zone decide to leave the currency. [4255]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The terms of membership of the single currency for member states without a derogation are set out in Article 4 and Articles 116 through to 124

of the treaty establishing the European Community. The Government's policy on UK membership of the single currency was set out by the Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997.

Government Spending

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much central Government money was spent in the most recent year for which figures are available per head of population in each of the English regions; and if he will make a statement. [3216]

Mr. Des Browne: Information on central Government and public corporations' identifiable spending per country and region per head is set out in table 8.16 of the HM Treasury and Office of National Statistics publication, "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2005", April 2005 (Cm 6521). This provides outturn data for 2003–04, the most recent year for which figures are available, and plans for 2004–05.

House prices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the long-run equilibrium, or sustainable, house price to earnings ratio; and if he will make a statement. [4534]

John Healey: A discussion regarding the long-run house price to earnings ratio can be found in paragraph A76 of the 2004 pre-Budget report (Cm 6408). This included the statement that,

> "The consensus view is that house prices exceed sustainable levels, though there is a wide range of opinion on the extent of disequilibrium. However, the common method of assessing this by comparing the current ratio of house prices to earnings (or some wider measure of income) with its long-run average can be highly misleading. There is no economic law to dictate that this ratio must revert to some constant level over the long term."

Inheritance Tax/Stamp Duty

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised through *(a)* inheritance tax and *(b)* stamp duty in Hammersmith and Fulham in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 2004. [3421]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No information is available at the local authority level for inheritance tax.

It is not possible to give stamp duty on land and property at this level for either 1997–98 or 2001–02. Estimates of UK stamp duty land tax for 2004–05 will be published in September.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost of the use of laptops in that period was; and if he will make a statement. [4115]

John Healey: Current Treasury records simply assign ownership of laptops and other small equipment to Budget centres within the Department, and so a distinction between *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* is not made.

	Laptops	*Cost (£)*	*Stolen*
2003	107	130,107	9
2004	83	94,727	4
2005 (part)	64	61,931	1

Details for 1995–02 can be found in the answer given on 3 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 838W by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Twickenham.

The totals above indicate acquisitions and do not reflect the actual number in use, which is affected by occasional stock holding and by old equipment being replaced with newer models. At present the number of laptops supported is about 500.

All recorded losses of laptops have been due to theft.

Partnerships UK

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of Partnerships UK in developing templates for private finance initiative and public-private partnership agreements. [3747]

John Healey: Partnerships UK (PUK) supports the Government's delivery of value for money PFI projects, including work on developing national procurement vehicles for key programmes such as Partnerships for Schools, and helping the Government standardise the legal documentation involved in PFI procurements.

PUK has worked closely with the Treasury and other Government Departments in the production and enforcement of the standardised contract for PFI agreements and in developing sector specific contracts. Through its help-line, PUK has provided a valuable support function for procuring authorities across the UK in negotiating standardised contracts and PFI project agreements. The work PUK does to support the enforcement of standardised contracts is important in delivering benefits to the public sector in terms of reduced procurement costs and procurement timescales.

The PUK Advisory Council reports annually on how PUK is fulfilling its public sector mission. A copy of the latest report is available on the Treasury website.

Personal Saving

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase levels of personal saving in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [3204]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government's policies provide over £2 billion every year in tax relief on savings through individual savings accounts (ISAs) and other forms of personal saving incentives. In addition, the Government deliver fiscal support for retirement saving worth more than £11 billion this year.

As well as ISAs, the Government introduced the Child Trust Fund in April to ensure assets for all children, regardless of family background, strengthen financial education and promote positive attitudes to saving. At the same time, the Government introduced a new suite of Stakeholder saving and investment products, which are simple and risk-controlled, with a

charge cap to protect consumers from high charges. In addition to tax relief, the Government are using the Saving Gateway to explore how matching can help promote saving among those who do not usually save.

For retirement saving, the Government are delivering pension tax simplification which, in April 2006, will sweep away the many separate regimes and replace them with only one. This radical reform which gives greater flexibility to individuals is supported by the Informed Choice programme which will mean that individuals are better able to understand and appreciate the value of their pensions savings.

Property and Pensions

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effects on tax revenue of the new rules on residential property and personal pension plans to be introduced in April 2006. [3089]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Pension tax simplification replaces the numerous existing tax regimes with a universal regime for tax-privileged pension savings providing greater flexibility to some 15 million pension savers.

Currently most pension funds may invest in residential property, and many do. Under the new simplified regime small self-administered schemes (SSASs) and self-invested personal pensions (SIPPs) may invest in residential property from 6 April 2006. Around 200,000 people, compared to over 15 million pension scheme members, hold these specialist pension vehicles. Creating a single set of allowable investments across all pension schemes fits the requirement to create a single regime for tax privileged pension saving and corrects an existing distortion by giving investors greater choice.

The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) "Simplifying the Taxation of Pensions" published in April 2004, which can be found at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/simplifying-pensions.pdf set out an assessment of the potential impact of the whole pensions simplification package, including the changes to the lifetime allowance and ages at which pensions can be taken, together with allowing residential property into SIPPs and SSASs. These elements cannot easily be separated and therefore the RIA estimates the overall cost of the pensions simplification package to the Exchequer at around £¼ billion within four years. Paragraphs 55 and 56 deal specifically with the potential consequences of allowing residential property into SIPPs and SSASs.

The Government will keep this aspect of the tax system, as with all others, under review.

Public sector pensions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net public sector pensions liability is estimated to be over the next 10 years based on the current retirement age. [3667]

Mr. Des Browne: The total liabilities of unfunded public service pension schemes as at 31 March 2004 were estimated to be £460 billion. This is a gross figure, as unfunded public service pension schemes do not hold assets to offset the liability. We do not hold information on a comparable basis projecting these aggregated liabilities to 2015.

Projected figures for the in year accrual of liabilities for the main unfunded pension schemes to 2007–08, based on the current normal pension age, are published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2005.

The net liabilities of funded pension schemes in the wider public sector to 2015 will be dependent on the performance of the individual pension funds. Central Government does not hold comprehensive information on, or estimates of the future performance of, these individual funds.

Tax Credits

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed on the effectiveness of research and development (R and D) tax credits in stimulating additional (R and D) activity in the UK. [4060]

John Healey: The effectiveness of fiscal incentives for R and D was fully considered in the development of the UK's R and D tax credit system. The Government has committed to a full evaluation of R and D tax credits and, as the first stage, has commissioned a survey of R and D companies to examine awareness and use of R and D tax credits and to assess any early effects on business R and D.

The Government will continue to monitor the wide range of economic and international evidence on R and D fiscal incentives to assess and inform improvements to the UK's R and D tax credits. Further research will also be commissioned as part of the evaluation programme.

National Statistics on the number of claims and amount of support claimed through the SME R and D tax credit are published on the HM Revenue and Customs website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-pensioner families in Tamworth have been recipients of tax credits in each of the last three years; and how many have been identified as having received overpayments. [3327]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 468W.

Small Businesses (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many small businesses were registered for VAT in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997; [2507]

(2) how many new VAT registrations of small companies there were in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [2508]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on the number of VAT registered businesses or new VAT registrations of small companies by geographic area. However, information on the number

of enterprises registered for VAT at the start of each year, and newly registered for VAT, is available via the Small Business Service website at www.sbs.gov.uk. This can be used to give an indication of the size of the business population within London. Table 1 shows the number of VAT registered small businesses and Table 2 shows the number of new VAT registrations, in London since 1997.

Table 1: Number of VAT registered small businesses in London

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Inner London							
Camden	19,800	20,675	20,620	20,660	20,610	20,005	19,145
Hackney	5,370	5,630	6,065	6,423	6,805	7,035	7,195
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,160	6,510	7,070	7,485	7,950	8,310	8,430
Haringey	5,410	5,685	5,950	6,185	6,375	6,465	6,525
Islington	9,585	10,380	10,945	11,055	11,070	11,040	10,885
Kensington and Chelsea	8,205	8,525	8,870	9,225	9,525	9,640	9,815
Lambeth	5,445	5,690	5,980	6,230	6,425	6,645	6,840
Lewisham	3,655	3,815	4,045	4,195	4,335	4,475	4,545
Newham	3,040	3,125	3,280	3,430	3,590	3,675	3,765
Southwark	6,150	6,475	6,860	7,190	7,545	7,895	8,130
Tower Hamlets	5,685	5,975	6,375	6,780	7,070	7,215	7,390
Wandsworth	7,585	7,980	8,445	8,865	9,110	9,305	9,445
Westminster	32,455	33,985	35,540	37,230	38,395	39,055	39,235
Outer London							
Barking and Dagenham	2,175	2,215	2,145	2,240	2,380	2,450	2,510
Barnet	14,270	15,070	15,330	15,240	15,230	14,680	14,050
Bexley	4,440	4,615	4,705	4,835	4,930	5,065	5,110
Brent	7,435	7,810	8,120	8,340	8,475	8,515	8,515
Bromley	8,145	8,390	8,745	8,825	8,960	9,100	9,115
Croydon	8,675	8,895	9,055	9,045	9,020	8,985	8,830
Ealing	8,005	8,360	8,770	9,125	9,390	9,550	9,680
Enfield	5,795	5,995	6,275	6,435	6,620	6,675	6,725
Greenwich	3,295	3,480	3,655	3,770	3,870	3,990	4,075
Harrow	6,935	7,170	7,445	7,500	7,535	7,575	7,585
Havering	5,225	5,370	5,545	5,645	5,700	5,790	5,795
Hillingdon	6,755	6,940	7,195	7,345	7,450	7,460	7,500
Hounslow	5,820	6,030	6,295	6,545	6,695	6,890	6,900
Kingston upon Thames	4,485	4,730	5,000	5,205	5,305	5,355	5,335
Merton	4,820	5,095	5,415	5,565	5,735	5,785	5,765
Redbridge	5,235	5,385	5,645	5,815	5,970	5,920	5,855
Richmond upon Thames	7,400	7,720	8,095	8,385	8,595	8,775	8,870
Sutton	4,760	4,880	5,040	5,140	5,125	5,165	5,150
Waltham Forest	4,245	4,330	4,550	4,675	4,725	4,755	4,765
Total for London	236,460	246,930	257,070	264,625	270,515	273,240	273,475

Table 2: Number of new small business VAT registrations in London

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Inner London							
Camden	3,115	2,930	2,665	2,475	1,920	1,865	1,940
Hackney	985	1,130	1,120	1,180	1,015	1,050	1,095
Hammersmith and Fulham	970	1,155	1,050	1,230	1,185	1,125	1,260
Haringey	940	990	980	960	885	855	845
Islington	1,740	1,805	1,575	1,445	1,255	1,270	1,315
Kensington and Chelsea	1,115	1,170	1,240	1,260	940	1,105	1,210
Lambeth	865	930	900	865	875	880	995
Lewisham	630	675	635	615	610	590	605
Newham	530	595	585	580	530	545	660
Southwark	1,010	1,090	1,025	1,105	1,085	1,025	1,080
Tower Hamlets	995	1,100	1,080	1,100	945	975	1,150
Wandsworth	1,165	1,225	1,250	1,165	1,110	1,145	1,255
Westminster	4,680	5,175	5,660	5,450	4,830	4,655	5,855
Outer London							
Barking and Dagenham	295	310	350	375	330	320	370
Barnet	2,295	2,275	1,925	1,970	1,625	1,600	1,615
Bexley	660	575	560	595	625	535	570
Brent	1,200	1,195	1,160	1,180	1,070	1,030	1,150
Bromley	1,055	1,125	915	950	940	940	1,000
Croydon	1,215	1,215	1,095	1,035	985	985	1,050
Ealing	1,255	1,255	1,190	1,200	1,150	1,175	1,330
Enfield	805	860	840	885	790	860	910
Greenwich	565	565	525	520	495	500	545
Harrow	945	1,050	900	930	920	950	1,085
Havering	720	745	645	640	630	635	610
Hillingdon	905	920	835	860	735	830	855
Hounslow	805	840	830	820	820	810	840
Kingston upon Thames	670	700	620	615	595	585	570

Table 2: Number of new small business VAT registrations in London

Inner London	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Merton	750	840	730	765	680	640	710
Redbridge	830	925	850	855	760	750	820
Richmond upon Thames	970	1,005	960	960	880	1,015	1,020
Sutton	585	610	540	505	520	490	550
Waltham Forest	670	715	705	650	625	630	675
Total in London	35,935	37,695	35,940	35,740	32,360	32,365	35,540

Stamp Duty

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has conducted into the impact that higher rates of stamp duty on domestic property have on workforce mobility; and if he will make a statement. [3199]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government keep all taxes under review.

Tax Levels

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reduce levels of tax paid by low and middle income earners; and if he will make a statement. [3200]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government keep all taxes under review; announcements about taxation are made within the Budget cycle.

The Government are keen to use targeted measures to ensure that help goes to those that need it most.

Personal tax and benefit measures introduced since 1997 mean that by October 2005 a single earner family on male average earnings and with two children will be £205 a year better off in real terms and the same family on half male average earnings will be £3,700 a year better off in real terms.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of levels of taxation applied to property in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* continental Europe and *(c)* USA; and if he will make a statement. [3203]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Measures introduced in Budget 2005 mean that 89 per cent. of property transactions pay either no or 1 per cent. stamp duty land tax and the vast majority—currently around 94 per cent—of estates will continue to pay no inheritance tax. The Government have also stated that gains arising on disposal of a principal private residence will continue to be exempt from capital gains tax.

International comparisons of taxes for each sector of the economy using published data (for example from the OECD) can be misleading, because similar taxes in two countries may be classified as falling on different bases. However the level of property taxation has remained broadly constant in the UK, EU15 and the USA since the 1960s.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of taxpayers in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the UK paid tax at the (i) basic rate and (ii) higher rate in (A) 1992, (B) 1997, (C) 2001 and (D) the latest year for which figures are available. [3399]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the estimated number of income taxpayers in the UK for the years since 1992–93 is available in table 2.1 'Number of individual income taxpayers' on the HM Revenue and Customs internet website http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1.pdf.

Similar information on the estimated number of income taxpayers in Lancashire for the years 1992–93 and 1997–98 is not available.

Information on the number of number and percentage of taxpayers in Lancashire in 2001–02 and 2002–03 (the latest year for which figures are available) is provided in the following table.

	2001–02	*2002–03*
Basic rate		
Number (thousands)	424	436
Percentage	77.4	77.4
Higher rate		
Number (thousands)	44	44
Percentage	8.0	7.8
All taxpayers		
Number (thousands)	548	563
Percentage	100	100

The all taxpayers figures include all those paying tax at the starting rate, savers rate, basic rate and higher rate.

The income tax information is based upon the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI).

Tax System (1997)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the disincentives to work that existed within the tax system in 1997. [3150]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The work incentive problems that existed in 1997 were analysed in "Work Incentives: A Report by Martin Taylor", the second paper in HM Treasury's reports on modernising the tax and benefit system. The report is available at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/2BF/88/taylor.pdf

Taxation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the level of taxation on the state of the economy. [3751]

John Healey: The Government's macro-economic framework has consistently delivered stability with strong growth and low inflation, thus establishing a track record that has been internationally acknowledged. The Government's approach to taxation balances the need to finance better quality public services, deliver fairness and promote sustainable development while ensuring that the UK benefits from the advantages of being a lightly taxed economy.

Teenage Pregnancies

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many teenage pregnancies there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by year group. [4638]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Tim Loughton, dated 14 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many teenage pregnancies there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by year group. I am replying in his absence. (4638)

The most recent year for which conception statistics are available is 2003 and figures for this year are provisional estimates. The data requested are given in the table below.

Conceptions to women aged under 18, England, 1994 to 2003

	Number
1994	33,794
1995	35,371
1996	40,558
1997	40,463
1998	41,089
1999	39,247
2000	38,699
2001	38,461
2002	39,350
2003[1]	39,571

[1] Provisional estimates.

Telephone use

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the Department's policy on the private use of official telephones and how it is monitored. [4529]

John Healey: Treasury staff are allowed to make reasonable private use of the Department's official telephones.

Calls are not monitored. If misuse is suspected, then the destination of all calls placed can be recorded.

Trade Union Learning Representatives

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3314]

John Healey: The Treasury does not have any trade union learning representatives, as the trade unions have not yet approached the Department on this issue or nominated anyone for the role.

VAT

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of irrecoverable VAT incurred by *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* further education colleges in each of the last 10 financial years. [4519]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold data about the level of irrecoverable VAT incurred by sixth form and further education colleges. However VAT incurred by sixth form and further education colleges is included in the funding they receive from central Government.

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* further education colleges are registered for VAT purposes. [4523]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: HM Revenue and Customs do not collect data on the number of sixth form and further education colleges registered for VAT. HM Revenue and Customs do hold information on the number of VAT registered traders in the education sector and sub-sectors which is shown in the table.

The number of VAT registered traders within the education sector as at June 2005

	Number
1. Primary Education	
Primary education	71
2. Secondary Education	
General secondary education	215
Technical and vocational education	611
3. Higher Education	
Sub-degree level higher education	238
First-degree level education	209
Post-graduate level education	36
4. Adult and other education	
Driving schools	409
Activities of private training providers	8,077
Other adult and other education not elsewhere classified	1,890
Total	11,756

Venture Capital Sector

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he is taking to promote the venture capital sector in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [3192]

John Healey: The UK's private equity and venture capital industry is the largest in Europe, and the second largest in the world after the United States. The Government have delivered macro-economic stability that allows investors in venture capital to invest with confidence, and a low-tax environment, including an effective Capital Gains Tax rate of 10 per cent. on business assets held for at least two years, which allows them to keep more of the reward from successful investments.

The Government also make a number of direct interventions in the venture capital markets to support finance-raising by small companies affected by the equity gap, including Regional Venture Capital Funds and Venture Capital Trusts and the Enterprise Investment Scheme. A new model of support, Enterprise Capital Funds, will soon be launched by the Small Business Service, which will partner public and private money to invest in small businesses seeking venture capital.

Young People (Yorkshire)

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many young people in the East Riding of Yorkshire were not working, studying or in training in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [3583]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Davis, dated 14 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about young people in the East Riding of Yorkshire. I am replying in his absence. (3583).

The numbers of people aged 16 to 24 not in employment, or in full-time education or government training, resident in the East Riding of Yorkshire for the 12 months ending February 2003 and 2004 are estimated at 4,000 and 3,000 respectively.

These estimates are based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any statistical sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

ADHD

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the new behaviour task force will take in dealing with pupils suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [4652]

Jacqui Smith: The Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline has been asked to advise on how effective school discipline reaches the classroom, how to improve parental responsibility for behaviour and deliver a culture of respect in all schools. It will be for the Group to decide how far issues relating specifically to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder relate to that overall remit.

Adult Education Budget/Funding

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget allocation for adult education was in each year between 1997 and 2004. [3056]

Bill Rammell: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC was established in 2001 bringing the planning and funding of post-16 education together under one body. In 2001–02 the Learning and Skills Council spent £2,236 million on adult programmes including FE, Work Based Learning, Adult and Community Learning and other programmes. This increased to £2,427 million in 2002–03 and to £2,866 million in 2003–04. These figures are available in the LSC's published accounts. Figures for adult education for the period 1997–01 are not comparable as the budget was split between a range of different organisations. The Departmental Annual Report sets out total expenditure on Further Education, Adult Training and Skills and Lifelong Learning for this period.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will safeguard central funding for adult education for 2005 to 2009. [4211]

Bill Rammell: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). In the Department's Grant Letter of 15 November 2004, the LSC was allocated £6.7 billion in 2005–06, £6.8 billion in 2006–07 and £7.1 billion in 2007–08 for learning participation, which includes funding for adult education. For the year 2008–09, allocations will be determined by the Spending Review 2006 outcome.

The Government are committed to safeguarding the availability of a wide range of learning for personal and community development (previously termed adult and community learning). The DfES and the LSC will agree each year an overall indicative budget based on the broad proportion of LSC funds currently spent on this type of learning.

Adult Illiteracy/Innumeracy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the level of adult *(a)* illiteracy and *(b)* innumeracy in England was in each year between 1994 and 2004. [3054]

Phil Hope: The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) does not collect annual data on levels of adult literacy and numeracy. However, to inform our planning and delivery in this key policy area, in October 2003 the Department published the "Skills for Live Survey: A national needs and impact survey of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills" (DfES, October 2003).

The survey assessed the literacy, numeracy and ICT skills of around 8,000 adults aged 16 and above in England. The findings are shown in the following tables. The assessment levels correspond to the new literacy and numeracy core curriculum and National Standards: Level 1 is broadly equivalent to a lower grade GCSE (grade D-G) and Level 2 to a higher grade GCSE (A*-C). Overall around 16 per cent. of adults had literacy skills below Level 1 and 47 per cent. had numeracy skills below this level.

Overall literacy—Base: all respondents with literacy level (7874)

	Percentage of 16 to 65-year-olds	*Number of 16 to 65-year-olds (million)*
Entry level 1 or below	3	1.1
Entry level 2	2	0.6
Entry level 3	11	3.5
(All Entry level or below)	(16)	(5.2)
Level 1	40	12.6
Level 2 or above	44	14.1
	100	*31.9*

Source:
Census 01
Skills for Life Survey, 2003

Overall numeracy—Base: all respondents with numeracy level (8040)

	Percentage of 16 to 65-year-olds	*Number of 16 to 65-year-olds (million)*
Entry level 1 or below	5	1.7
Entry level 2	16	5.1
Entry level 3	25	8.1
(All Entry level or below)	(47)	(15.0)
Level 1	28	8.8
Level 2 or above	25	8.1
	100	*31.9*

Source:
Census 01
Skills for Life Survey, 2003

A copy of the survey report is in the House of Commons Library and on the DfES website: www.dfes.gov.uk

Afro-Caribbean Pupils

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps the Government have taken to improve the performance of Afro-Caribbean boys at schools; [3901]

(2) what assessment she has made of the performance of Afro-Caribbean boys against the national average performance for each age group. [3902]

Jacqui Smith: This Government are fully committed to improving the performance of African-Caribbean boys in our schools and narrowing achievement gaps for all underachieving minority ethnic pupils.

Following the Aiming High: Raising the Achievement of Minority Ethnic Pupils consultation, the Government announced a national strategy in

November 2003. The strategy aims to: focus mainstream school improvement programmes and targeted activity on identifying and addressing underachievement; increasing accountability, including through the publication of achievement data; and supporting the school workforce to be able to meet the needs of minority ethnic pupils more effectively.

The strategy included a pilot national project focused on raising the achievement of African-Caribbean young people, and boys in particular. This project was developed following detailed assessment of performance data for African-Caribbean pupils. The experience of delivering this project is currently informing the roll out of a national programme to support black pupils in all our schools across both primary and secondary education.

More widely my officials routinely use data, including ethnicity data, to support the development of policy and initiatives. In order to ensure that parents and other interested parties are kept informed of our progress in narrowing achievement gaps, my Department publishes the ethnicity performance data on an annual basis. The latest data is available at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtmln and analysis of the 2003 data at

http://dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/NPD_sfr_text_Finished3.pdf

A-levels

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects individual module marks of A-level students to be made available to universities. [3853]

Jacqui Smith: UCAS and the Joint Council for Qualifications have agreed that individual unit grades will be made available to those institutions which wish to receive them from 2007 entry onwards. There will be a pilot for 2006 entry, although the extent of and participation in that pilot has yet to be determined.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations her Department has received on making individual module marks of A-level students available to universities. [3854]

Jacqui Smith: We have received representations from a number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) seeking more information about students' performance. Following a consultation with HEIs, UCAS will be making available individual unit grades to those institutions which wish to receive them from 2007 onwards. There will be a pilot for 2006 entry.

Apprenticeships

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to remove the age limit on modern apprenticeships. [4212]

Phil Hope: The Department for Education and Skills has already changed the rules so that young people who start their apprenticeship at any point up to their 25th birthday can complete it. Beyond that, the Department is currently trialling apprenticeships for adult entry in three sectors: engineering, construction and health and social care. These trials are due to complete in March 2006 a decision will be made in the light of these trials whether apprenticeship frameworks offer an effective method for older workers to gain qualifications.

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many projects in wave one of Building Schools for the Future used the exemplar building design. [3781]

Jacqui Smith: Wave one authorities have not yet received tenders showing proposed school designs, but the first responses indicating proposed designs are expected later this month. However, authorities will be using exemplar building designs to assist in tender evaluation.

Bullying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance her Department has produced to deal with *(a)* bullying of early years pupils and *(b)* bullying issues that arise in the infant age group. [2206]

Jacqui Smith: The Education Act 2002 embeds the Foundation Stage as part of the National Curriculum and supports our aim of giving all children a better start to school life. This will support staff in equipping children in their early years with the key skills they need for their learning journey and will feed through to higher educational attainment, supporting standards and improved behaviour within schools and outside.

In order to meet children's diverse needs, and help all children make the best possible progress, practitioners should provide a safe and supportive learning environment, free from harassment, in which the contribution of all children is valued and where racial, religious, disability and gender stereotypes are challenged.

'Personal, social and emotional development' is part of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. This includes 'developing respect for others, social competence and a positive disposition to learn'. Children learn to understand what is right, what is wrong and why; and to consider the consequences of their words and actions for themselves and others. Guidance to practitioners includes involving children in agreeing codes of behaviour and taking responsibility for their implementation.

To support this the Department has appointed the Institute of Psychology, King's College London to develop a training programme on young children's personal social and emotional development to support the Birth to Three Matters and Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage documents.

The materials will address various aspects of children's personal social and emotional development and its promotion, implications for practice and multi agency-working. The emphasis will be on producing effective, user friendly, quality materials setting out key messages. Through these key messages children will develop respect for others, social competence and a positive disposition to learn.

In June 2005, the DfES is making available to all primary schools curriculum materials to help reduce bullying. They include age related materials for pupils in Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2, and are part of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) curriculum resource.

All primary schools also have access to the DfES anti bullying resource pack for schools 'Don't Suffer in Silence', which provides a number of anti-bullying strategies including co-operative group work, circle time, circle of friends, all of which are suitable for use with infant age children.

Head teachers, staff and learners from various primary schools have been involved in the Make the Difference conferences sharing effective practice from their own schools with others.

We are currently developing advice for schools on Countering Racist Bullying, which will cover issues for all children from foundation stage upwards.

Bursaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Government have spent on bursaries in each of the last five years. [2927]

Bill Rammell: The total spent on business in England from 2000–01 to 2004–05 is detailed in Table 1. 2004–05 data for Hardship Fund and Opportunity Bursaries will not be available until November 2005. Other Bursaries includes training bursaries for school and FE PGCE students and additional teacher bursaries for continuing professional development (the Professional Bursaries Scheme).

Table 1: Amount of money spent on bursaries 2000–01 to 2004–05

£

	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Hardship and opportunity bursaries	14,822,838	17,230,332	19,568,722	19,125,163	Not available
Other bursaries	77,820,000	136,620,000	137,409,000	154,256,989	156,974,582
Total	92,642,838	153,850,332	156,977,722	173,382,152	Not available

Child Safeguarding Unit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many names of teachers who have been complained against are held by the Department's Child Safeguarding Unit; and in how many such cases the complaint had been dismissed;[3963]

(2) for what purpose a teacher's name is recorded by *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* the Department's Child Safeguarding Unit where a complaint against that teacher has been dismissed. [3964]

Jacqui Smith: Employers within the education sector are required to provide information to the Children's Safeguarding Operations Unit where they have ceased to use the services of an employee because they are considered unsuitable to work with children; as a result of misconduct; or because of a medical condition that raises the possibility of risk to the safety and welfare of children. Additionally the police notify the Unit of conviction or cautions of employees in the education sector.

The Unit currently holds approximately 15,000 records of individuals who have been referred to my Department in the circumstances referred to above. This includes different types of employee, not just teachers. Some of these referrals will have come about as a result of complaints, but only when those complaints reached the point that an employer ceased to use the services of an employee—complaints that do not lead to dismissal are not referred to my Department. Neither is there a requirement to report cases when a decision to dismiss has been overturned on appeal, but there may be some cases where a report is made to the Unit before a decision to dismiss is overturned. In such cases the Department will consider whether any decision made should be revised in light of the new evidence. The Department does not maintain a breakdown of the number of cases that fall into this category.

The purpose of referral is for the Secretary of State to consider whether the individual's employment should be prohibited or restricted. If so, that individual is added to the list held by the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (List 99).

All referral information received is retained to support the decision made by the Secretary of State to include or not include an individual on the list, to demonstrate that each case has been properly considered, and to ensure that any future duplicate referral is not reconsidered.

My Department has not issued guidelines to local education authorities about recording details of teachers who are the subject of complaints.

Classroom Supervisors

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of supply teachers' time are estimated will be replaced by classroom supervisors under the proposals in the technical note provided by her Department to the Gershon Review; and how much money is expected to be saved by this change. [3725]

Jacqui Smith: The thrust of the workforce reform agenda—which is supported by school workforce unions and employers, as well as by Government—are to encourage schools to make the most effective use of all their resources. In many cases, using cover staff rather than supply teachers will be the best option—in terms of educational benefit as well as value for money. But deployment will depend on a number of factors, including how much short term absence—much of which is unforeseeable—a school needs to cover.

Education Funding

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been set

aside for high-quality tuition in *(a)* the arts, *(b)* music, *(c)* sport and *(d)* foreign languages for the next three financial years. [4235]

Jacqui Smith: We are investing in major national programmes such as Creative Partnerships—providing a £2.5 million contribution to the larger DCMS funding specifically to run an education team—to support schools to give their pupils the opportunity to experience learning through creativity and working with artists, actors etc. We also support the Artsmark Awards which recognise schools that have made a strong commitment to the arts and have encouraged schools to increase their provision of arts to pupils, thereby raising the profile and quality of arts education across the country

To date, £270 million has gone to LEA Music Services through the Music Standards Fund. The MSF was set up in 1999 to protect music services and to expand music provision outside of the National Curriculum. We now plan to distribute up to a further £210 million during the course of the current spending period, and this includes a planned £30 million increase intended to specifically support Music Services to implement the Ofsted supported Wider Opportunities Music Programme at Key Stage 2. This successful programme was piloted in 13 areas, and consisted of new musical experiences and whole class instrumental tuition.

The Government are investing £978 million in the five years to 2008 to deliver the national PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy. £28 million of the overall budget has been set aside to support the professional development of teachers and other to enhance the quality of PE teaching and learning.

The Secretary of State announced a £115 million "Boost for Modern Foreign Languages" in March 2005, providing support for languages teaching over the next three years. £60 million of that sum will support initial and existing teacher training, and another £14 million will support new approaches for teaching and learning for 11 to 18-year-olds.

EU Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the number of EU students who have been resident in the UK for more than three years and will be eligible for higher education maintenance support from 2006 as a result of the European Court of Justice judgment in the case R (Bidar) *v* the London borough of Ealing. [3979]

Bill Rammell: It is difficult to estimate precisely the number of EU students that may be eligible for higher education maintenance support because of the uncertainty involved in projecting future numbers of EU students and the limited data available centrally on the number of years people in this group may have been resident in the UK. An EU student will still need to satisfy the requirement of three years residence in the UK prior to the start of his or her course in order to be eligible for maintenance support. Based on the limited data available, we estimate that around 6,000 full time EU students studying in English institutions could in principle be eligible for maintenance support in Academic Year 2006/07 as a result of changes we have made to regulations in the light of the ECJ ruling.

Further Education Funding

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many further education colleges have reported that they expect to be in financial deficit in this financial year; and if she will make a statement. [2743]

Bill Rammell: The latest data that the LSC has collected from further education colleges regarding their 2004–05 financial position is from the 2004–07 financial plans. These financial plans indicate that 78 out of 390 colleges (20 per cent.) were forecasting a financial deficit for 2004–05.

GCSE Music

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance her Department has issued on the provision of GCSE Music in secondary schools. [4109]

Jacqui Smith: This Government recognises the importance of music in schools both as a subject in its own right and as a means of driving up standards across the curriculum. Music is a statutory requirement for all pupils up to the age of 14. At Key Stage 4 it comes within the statutory entitlement to study arts—schools must provide access to a minimum of one course in the arts—art and design, music, dance, drama or media arts.

The Department has not provided guidance to schools on offering music GCSE, or indeed any other subject. It is for schools to decide what subjects to offer for GCSE in the light of suitable accommodation, facilities and suitably qualified teaching staff; and taking account of demand.

Key Stage Learning

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the actions her Department will take to ensure that children who have not achieved the expected standards of numeracy and literacy at Key Stage 2 receive support at secondary school to achieve these standards; and whether these will include *(a)* curriculum flexibility, *(b)* targeted reading materials and *(c)* increased resources. [3852]

Jacqui Smith: Children who have not achieved the age-related expectations in numeracy and literacy on transfer to secondary school remain a key priority for this Government. The 14–19 White Paper and our recent manifesto set out our actions and proposals for improving the support for and schools' focus on these pupils. These include reviewing the Key Stage 3 curriculum to create more space to help those who have fallen behind; strengthening the support and guidance already provided to secondary schools by the Secondary National Strategy, and extending it to Key Stage 4; and strengthening the Achievement and Attainment Tables to include English and maths in the GCSE 5A* -C measure.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance her Department has produced on the range of subjects beyond the core requirements of the national curriculum offered in secondary schools at Key Stage 3 and 4. [4234]

Jacqui Smith: My Department produces guidance materials to support teaching and learning in all the core and foundation subjects of the National Curriculum and other elements of the school curriculum (such as PSHE and RE). In addition, QCA provides guidance on a range of statutory and non-statutory elements of the curriculum, including areas of study outside of the National Curriculum, for example business studies, work-related learning, and economics.

Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) whether she expects the report of the Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline to be published; and if she will make a statement; [3772]

(2) how much has been allocated for the work of the Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline; [3773]

(3) which professional bodies have been invited to *(a)* attend and *(b)* nominate teachers and head teachers to the Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline; [3774]

(4) what the *(a)* functions and *(b)* membership of the (i) Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline and (ii) Behaviour and Attendance Reference Group are; [3775]

(5) what functions the Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline will take over from the Behaviour and Attendance Reference Group; [3776]

(6) whether the Behaviour and Attendance Reference Group will be abolished; [3777]

(7) how much funding the Behaviour and Attendance Reference Group *(a)* received in each year since it was established and *(b)* is projected to receive. [3778]

Jacqui Smith: The Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline, announced on 20 May, will advise the Government on how effective school discipline reaches every classroom, how to improve parental responsibility for their children's behaviour and deliver a culture of respect in all schools. Chaired by Sir Alan Steer of the Seven Kings High School in Ilford, the group has a membership of heads and teachers with a proven track record in managing behaviour. Six of these have been nominated by teacher unions and professional associations—ATL, NAHT, NAS/UWT, NUT, PAT and SHA. The Leadership Group is due to report by the end of October to a ministerial group on behaviour and attendance. The Ministerial Group comprises general secretaries of those six organisations, a representative from Unison, Ofsted, local authorities and governors, including a parent governor. The ministerial group's role will be to advise Ministers on the development and implementation of behaviour and attendance policies and to play an active part in promoting and helping to embed the most effective practice in improving behaviour and attendance across all schools. This includes receiving the report of the Leadership Group. I intend to make available the report of the leadership group, once my Ministerial Group has had an opportunity to consider its findings.

With the creation of the two new groups, and pending the report of the leadership group, we have suspended meetings of the Improving Behaviour and Attendance Programme (IBAP) reference group. The IBAP reference group has played a valuable role since its creation in September 2002. Its functions have been to review and help develop strategy, including the effect and practicalities of its implementation; to comment on guidance and other materials that have been made available to schools and LEAs; and to provide a forum for partners to discuss behaviour and attendance issues. Following the decision to suspend its meetings, its overall strategic role and its role as a discussion forum will be taken forward by the new Ministerial Group. No decisions have yet been taken on its future role.

The IBAP reference group did not receive any specific funding, apart from costs of its meetings. It is envisaged that similar arrangements will apply to the two new groups. As the Leadership Group comprises serving heads and teachers, we are providing supply cover costs.

The members of the IBAP reference group are listed as follows.

Association	*Name*
ACE	Julia Parnaby
ACE	Ingrid Sutherland
Association of Education Welfare Managers	Jenny Price
Association of Education Welfare Managers	Jennie Clark
NEC of AEWM	Stewart Bray
Ofsted	David Moore
Ofsted	Eileen Visser
Youth Justice Board	Paul Dale
Youth Justice Board	David Padley
Youth Justice Board	Julie Conalty
Youth Justice Board	Robert Newman
Association of Educational Psychologists	David Webster
Association of Educational Psychologists	Mary Jenkin
ATL	Julie Coverdale
ATL	Martin Johnson
NAHT	Jan Myles
NAHT	Kathryn James
NAHT	Philippa Erasmus
Children's Society	Vacant
Commission for Racial Equality	Suma Das
ConfED	Jo Davidson
ConfED	Chris Waterman
DCMS	Phil Clapp
DOH	Cathy James
General Teaching Council	Sally-Ann Davies
GTCE	Carol Adams
Information for Schools and College Governors	Elizabeth Alqadhi
CFBT	Sue Bainbridge
KS3/CfBT	Marilyn Toft
NASWE	Michael Sunderland
LGA	Mark Behrendt
NAGM	Hadrian Southern
NASUWT	Kim Garcia
NASUWT	Chris Keates
NASUWT	Patrick Roach
NASUWT	Jennifer Moses
NCSL	Edith Pagliacci
NCSL	Pat Collarbone
NPQH—NCSL	Robin Attfield
National Council for Parent-Teacher Association	David Butler
NFPI	Ann Page
National Governors Council	Mary Wallis-Jones
National Planning and Parenting Institute	Mary Macleod
NUT	John Bangs
NUT	Rosamund McNeil
NCB	Philippa Stobbs
Professional Association of Teachers	Jean Gemmell

Association	Name
Professional Association of Teachers	Sharon Vaughan
SHA	Bob Carstairs
SHA	Kate Griffin
UNISON	Vacant
Teacher Training Agency	Laura Mahoney
Teacher Training Agency	Martin Dore
Independent	Rashida Sharif

Learning Edge Partnership Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her Answer of 6 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 340W, on the Leading Edge Schools Programme, what discussions her Department is having on the Leading Edge Partnership Programme; and with whom. [4093]

Jacqui Smith: Discussions have taken place about the future of the Leading Edge Partnership Programme, in the context of the Five Year Strategy commitment to offer leading roles for high performing specialist schools, with a wide range of professionals. The Department has had discussions with, among others, the Specialist Schools Trust, the Youth Sport Trust, the Teacher Training Agency, the Leading Edge Partnership Programme's Steering Group and other interested Head Teachers.

Mobile Phones (Schools)

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what policies are being developed to stop the bullying with mobile phones known as 'happy slapping' in schools. [4407]

Jacqui Smith: Happy slapping incidents may well be considered violent crimes under existing criminal law legislation, and therefore should be dealt with in the same way as other such incidents. Guidance on dealing with such incidents is available on the teachernet website and further advice to schools on violence reduction is currently being developed.

In terms of bullying by mobile phone, part of the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) remit under the funding provided by the Department is to develop innovative and practical approaches to tackling bullying, including the modern menace of bullying by text messaging. Bullying by text messages on mobile phones is also referred to in our guidance pack for schools 'Don't suffer in Silence'.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will consult mobile phone companies on the development of new technologies to block the use of mobile phones in schools. [4408]

Jacqui Smith: There are currently no plans for the Department to begin consultation with mobile phone companies on technologies to block mobile phone use in schools.

New School Provision

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how she proposes to encourage the creation and retention of small schools and state boarding schools. [4237]

Jacqui Smith: Local authorities are responsible for planning school places in their area including the creation and retention of small schools. In the interests of raising standards, we expect local authorities to take parents' preferences for a particular type of provision into account in the planning process. Statutory Guidance to school organisation committees and the schools adjudicator makes clear that they must not assume a school must be of a certain size to be a good school.

In relation to State Boarding Schools, we have made available £5 million to support projects to increase boarding provision or undertake essential work to existing boarding accommodation.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure new school provision in areas where school standards are low. [4239]

Jacqui Smith: Where the appropriate response to low standards in an area is the establishment of a new school—whether an additional school or a school to replace one or more existing schools—the local authority will be required under the Education Act 2005 to invite potential providers to bring forward proposals.

Otley College

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reason Otley College decided to close the IT training centre at Colchester. [269]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 May 2005]:* This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Bob Russell, dated 9 June 2005:

I write in response to your recent question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills regarding the closure of the IT Centre at Otley College, Colchester.

Otley College's funding allocation for adult learners in 2005–06 has been capped at the 2004–05 level to support growth in funding for 16–18 learners.

The IT Centre offers free, low level IT courses mainly to adults, that are funded entirely from the college's funding allocation from the LSC. This provision is not a priority for the LSC and the college, having reviewed its adult provision, has decided to close the Centre because it is not economically viable. In making this decision the college was aware that suitable alternative provision was available in Colchester. Colchester has a large FE college, a large adult community college and numerous private providers that offer similar IT courses.

In order to achieve Government targets for 2005–06 LSC funding has been focused on priorities which has reduced the funding available for non-priority adult provision such as that offered at the IT Centre in Colchester. The scale of reduction in adult provision is likely to be greater than anticipated due to our need to support unprecedented numbers of young people in FE provision, and the LSC is currently reviewing planning arrangements and modelling funding implications to assist college plans for 2006–07.

Out-of-Hours Learning

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her estimate is of the proportion of *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools that support out-of-hours learning. [4015]

Jacqui Smith: We recently commissioned MORI to conduct research into the extent and nature of study support in schools. Findings indicated that 90 per cent. of primary and 98 per cent. of secondary schools now offer some study support. The most popular activities are PE and sport, followed by music and ICT.

Out-of-school Units

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places have been available in out-of-school units in each year since 1995; and what plans she has to increase the number. [4123]

Jacqui Smith: The available information is given in the table. It is the responsibility of local authorities (LAs) to provide suitable education for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not otherwise receive it. Therefore each LA will decide how many PRU places it needs, in line with its own policies, the efficient use of resources and DfES guidance.

Pupil referral units: number of pupils—1995 to 2005 (Provisional) England

	Number of pupils		
Position in January each year:	*Pupils on the unit register only*[1]	*Dually registered pupils*[2]	*Total*
1995	5,043	4,129	9,172
1996	6,872	4,183	11,055
1997	7,530	4,403	11,933
1998	7,740	4,166	11,906
1999	8,263	4,202	12,465
2000	8,479	4,586	13,065
2001	9,289	4,993	14,282
2002	9,956	4,968	14,924
2003	12,005	5,518	17,523
2004	13,038	7,293	20,331
2005[3]	14,470	8,010	22,480

[1] Also includes pupils with other providers.

[2] Pupils who are on the unit's register and on another school's register.

[3] Provisional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Annual Schools Census

Post-16 Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action she is taking to increase *(a)* flexibility of provision and *(b)* choice and diversity in 16–19 education. [3835]

Jacqui Smith: The actions we are taking to increase *(a)* flexibility of provision and *(b)* choice and diversity in 16–19 education are set out in the Departments' five year strategy, the 14–19 White Paper and the Government's manifesto.

We plan to publish more detailed guidance on measures to increase choice and diversity in 16–19 provision later this year.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to increase diversity in 16–19 provision of education outside sixth form colleges, school sixth forms and further education colleges. [3836]

Jacqui Smith: An objective of competitions for new 16–19 provision is to open the market to new providers. These could include schools and colleges. They could also include others, for example private sector providers of vocational learning. The intention is that competitions will attract high quality, and where appropriate innovative proposals that will contribute to an improved local offer.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance will be produced for stakeholders in 16–19 provision of education on increasing choice and diversity. [3837]

Jacqui Smith: The guidance on increasing choice and diversity in 16–19 provision that was prepared earlier this year has been reviewed in the light of policy developments. We plan to issue it for consultation later in the summer.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list prospective stakeholders in 16–19 provision with which her Department has held initial discussions. [3838]

Jacqui Smith: Departmental officials have worked with the LSC on developing draft guidance on how the new measures for increasing choice and diversity in 16–19 provision will work in practice. We plan to consult stakeholders more widely on the draft guidance later in the summer.

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will allocate a portion of the funding for rebuilding of secondary schools to further education colleges for delivery of vocational education to 14 to 16-year-olds. [4263]

Bill Rammell: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is for investment in schools.

The Spending Review settlement for 2005–06 to 2007–08 provides however, for capital investment in both the schools and further education sectors. The Department has been working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to ensure that this capital investment is complementary. Where BSF proposals address the 14–19 agenda in association with a local further education college, the LSC will consider this when determining applications to upgrade further education provision, where this is deemed to be necessary as part of the overall local strategy. In order to support the needs of further education colleges, the Chancellor's March 2005 Budget statement included additional resources for the sector of £100 million and £250 million in 2008–09 and 2009–10 respectively.

School Governance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation would be necessary to allow more flexibility in the structure of governing bodies of schools. [3859]

Jacqui Smith: The existing framework allows governing bodies to determine their own size and composition within a framework of guiding principles based on a stakeholder model. We will consult on any new proposals in due course.

School Meals

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on proposals for training for school catering staff. [3582]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the response that I gave on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 476W to his question and to the response that I gave on 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 691W to the hon. Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor).

School Support Staff

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether she plans to require support staff working in schools to register with the General Teaching Council. [3849]

Jacqui Smith: There are no plans to require support staff in schools to be registered with the General Teaching Council.

School Transport

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what Government assistance is available to provide school transport for pupils unable to travel to schools to which they have been allocated by their local education authority by either private or public transport. [4008]

Jacqui Smith: The Education Act 1996 sets out local education authority (LEA) duties and powers relating to school transport. LEAs must make transport arrangements for all pupils of compulsory school age who attend their nearest suitable school, where this is beyond statutory walking distance, and for pupils with transport written into their statement of Special Educational Need. LEAs may use their discretionary powers to help in other situations, including making transport arrangements to schools other than the nearest suitable school, and paying all or part of a pupil's reasonable travelling expenses.

Schools (Cheshire)

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Cheshire attended by children from Wales in 2005, indicating the number of pupils from Wales attending each school. [3092]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested has been provided in the tables below. To comply with the National Statistics code of practice and associated protocols low counts have been suppressed for individual schools.

Pupils resident in Wales who attend maintained primary, secondary and special schools in the Cheshire local education authority

	Pupil numbers	*Percentage of Cheshire school population*	*Number of schools*
Total Cheshire School Population	104,433	—	—
Total pupils resident in Wales attending schools in Cheshire	729	0.70	66
Primary Schools	292	0.28	48
Secondary Schools	421	0.40	14
Special Schools	16	—	4

'—' Denotes less than 0.05 per cent.

Source:

PLASC 2005 Provisional data

Schools in Cheshire LEA attended by pupils resident in Wales

Primary schools	*Number of pupils*
Hoole CE Primary and Nursery School	—
Victoria Infant School	—
Newton Primary School	—
Blacon Hall Junior School	—
J. H. Godwin Primary School	—
Belgrave Infant School	11
Boughton St. Paul's Nursery and Infant School	—
Helsby Hillside Primary School	—
Harthill Primary School	—
Waverton Community Primary School	—
Farndon Primary School	59
Ashton Hayes Primary School	—

Schools in Cheshire LEA attended by pupils resident in Wales

	Number of pupils
Primary schools	
Mill View Primary School	4
Christleton Primary School	3
Saughall The Ridings Community Infant School	5
Acresfield Community Primary School	—
Cherry Grove Primary School	5
Dee Point Primary School	—
Mansfield Primary School	—
Oldfield Primary School	—
Meadow Community Primary School	—
Woodfield Primary School	—
Highfield Community Primary School	—
Lache Primary School	11
Willaston CofE Primary School	4
Bickerton Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	8
Dodleston CofE Primary School	6
Guilden Sutton CofE Primary School	3
Saughall the Thomas Wedge CofE Junior School	8
Glutton Church of England Primary School	—
Malpas Alport Endowed Primary School	15
Shocklach Oviatt CofE Primary School	13
Tilston Parochial CofE Primary School	5
Tushingham-with-Grindley CofE Primary School	—
Huxley CofE Primary School	—
Overleigh St. Mary's CofE Primary School	20
Upton Heath CofE Primary School	—
St. Thomas of Canterbury Blue Coat CofE Junior School	—
St. Clare's Catholic Primary School	9
Crowton Christ Church CofE Primary School	—
Eccleston CofE Primary School	49
Saighton CofE Primary School	3
Ellesmere Port Christ Church CofE Primary School	—
St. Saviour's Catholic Junior School	—
St. Saviour's Catholic Infant School	—
St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School	—
St. Werburgh's and St. Columba's Catholic Primary School	7
St. Oswald's CofE Aided Primary School	8
Secondary schools	
Kingsway High School	—
Blacon High School	4
Queen's Park High School	58
Neston High School	4
Ruskin Sports College—a Community High School	—
Christleton High School	13
Upton-by-Chester High School	26
Bishop Heber High School	134
Sutton High School	—
The Whitby High School, A Specialist Technology College	3
Helsby High School	—
The Catholic High School, Chester a Specialist Science College	156
Ellesmere Port Catholic High School	4
The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School	13
Special schools	
David Lewis School	—
Cloughwood School	—
Hinderton School	—
Dorin Park School	12

'—' Denotes less than 3 pupils

Sixth Forms

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment her Department has made of sixth form provision provided by Palmers College, Thurrock; and if she will make a statement. [4433]

Jacqui Smith: Palmer's College delivers provision for both young people and adults. It was inspected by Ofsted and the Adult Learning Inspectorate in March 2003. The inspection report shows that the overall quality of provision was good. Of the eight curriculum areas inspected, one was outstanding, six were good and one was satisfactory. The leadership and management of the college was also found to be good.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to ensure that sixth form colleges in areas of high social need with above average drop-out rates receive equivalent funding to that allocated to high schools with sixth forms; and if she will make a statement. [4558]

Bill Rammell: We have increased funding for further education (FE), which includes sixth form colleges, by £1 billion in 2005–06 when compared to 2002–03—a 25 per cent. cash increase.

We have brought up funding levels for FE as we said we would, without penalising schools. The Learning and Skills Council's funding rates per course in FE have risen faster than school sixth forms and continued progress will depend on available resources.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what directions she has given to the Learning and Skills Council on funding new school sixth forms. [3840]

Jacqui Smith: None. My officials are, however, working with the LSC on guidance for stakeholders on the operation of the new 16–19 capital fund announced in the Department's Five Year Strategy.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school sixth forms have been established since the Department launched its Five Year Strategy. [3841]

Jacqui Smith: Four additional school sixth forms have been established since the strategy was published in July 2004, following the approval of the necessary statutory proposals. These include sixth forms added to existing schools and sixth forms included in new schools flowing from local reorganisations.

Proposals have been approved for a further three sixth forms which will open in September 2005. Details are set out in the following table.

LEA name	*School name*	*Proposal type*
Proposals implemented in September 2004		
Bromley	Bishop Justus CofE Secondary School	New school with sixth form
Haringey	Alexandra Park Secondary School	Addition of a sixth form
Northamptonshire	Caroline Chisholm School	New 4–18 school
West Sussex	Oriel High School	New school with sixth form
Proposals due to be implemented in September 2005		
Milton Keynes	Hazeley School	New school with sixth form
Milton Keynes	Oakgrove School	New school with sixth form
Slough	The Westgate School	Addition of a sixth form

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance she has issued to *(a)* schools and *(b)* local education authorities on the establishment of school sixth forms. [3842]

Jacqui Smith: The Department's guidance on statutory proposals for LEAs and for schools includes guidance on establishing school sixth forms. This can be found on the Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolorg

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether she has discussed the establishment of school sixth forms with *(a)* the Learning and Skills Councils and *(b)* local education authorities. [3843]

Jacqui Smith: No, but officials have had extensive discussions on the establishment of school sixth forms with national and local stakeholders, including the Learning and Skills Council and local education authorities.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools have expressed an interest in establishing a school sixth form. [3844]

Jacqui Smith: My Department does not collect this data centrally. We are, however, aware of a number of schools with an interest in establishing a sixth form; and local authorities and Learning and Skills Councils will have information about 11–16 schools in their areas that would like to open sixth forms.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what procedures a school is required to follow to set up a new sixth form. [3845]

Jacqui Smith: A school wishing to set up a new sixth form must first consult and then publish a statutory proposal which is decided by the local school organisation committee or, if they cannot agree unanimously, by a schools adjudicator. The detailed procedures are set out in the Department's guidance for schools on statutory proposals which can be found on the Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolorg

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation would be necessary to enable new school sixth forms to be set up. [3846]

Jacqui Smith: Provisions for establishing a new school sixth form are set out in the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended and regulations

made under them. No additional primary or secondary legislation is necessary to enable new school sixth forms to be set up.

Skills Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assistance the Department provides in Tamworth to promote a well-trained and skilled workforce. [3334]

Phil Hope: Central Government provides substantial financial investment in training and skills through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for Staffordshire. The LSC works with a range of partners, learning providers and employers. The recent White Paper 'Getting on in Business; Getting on at Work', announced a National Employer Training Programme which will tailor training solutions to meet the skills needs of employers and their employees. The Executive Director of Staffordshire LSC will give further detailed information about the work being undertaken in Tamworth and a copy of the reply will be placed in the Library.

Student Finance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her written statement of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 43WS, on student finance, what the *(a)* arrangements and *(b)* timescale for making submissions to the review are. [3929]

Bill Rammell: The review of student finance delivery will be inviting submissions, through a written questionnaire, in the next month. The timescale for making submissions is yet to be determined but will conform to the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Written Consultations guideline of a minimum of 12 weeks.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment her Department have made of the effect of the new student funding regime on access to part-time undergraduates courses for *(a)* mature students and *(b)* those from disadvantaged backgrounds. [4029]

Bill Rammell: This Government were the first to introduce statutory support for students studying on a part-time basis. In the current academic year, a grant of up to £575 for fees and a course grant of up to £250 are available for students from the poorest backgrounds. The grants are means-tested in order to target funding most effectively at those from disadvantaged backgrounds. There is no age limit on the fee grant or the course grant, ensuring that part-time students have access to funding regardless of age.

In 2005/06 we are improving the fee grant arrangements by linking the maximum fee grant available to the intensity at which the student is studying. For example, for a student studying at 75 per cent. or more of the full-time equivalent course a fee grant of up to £885 will be available.

We will continue to monitor the sector to ensure that we use available funding in the most effective way to support those part-time students who most need it.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 43WS, on student finance, what the definition is of under-represented student groups for these purposes. [4630]

Bill Rammell: The review will consider the needs of all customers of the student finance service. It will particularly consider the needs of lower socio-economic groups and those who receive specific grants, such as students with dependents and disabled students.

Student Numbers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students of *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* physics and *(e)* mathematics there were in higher education institutions in England in each year between 1994 and 2004; and what the projected numbers are for each year from 2005 to 2010. [3102]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures are shown in the table. Figures for 2004/05 will be available in January 2006. The Department does not produce projections of student numbers by subject.

Undergraduate students in higher education institutions in England by subject of study[1]

	Chinese[2]	*Modern middle eastern studies*[3]	*Chemistry*	*Physics*	*Mathematics*
1994/95	540	640	13,710	8,010	11,130
1995/96	590	740	12,960	7,870	10,855
1996/97	585	745	12,550	8,550	11,355
1997/98	550	695	12,370	8,320	12,095
1998/99	545	680	12,465	8,170	12,005
1999/2000	510	600	11,900	7,935	12,150
2000/01	465	555	10,965	7,715	12,320
2001/02	510	685	10,695	7,225	12,600
2002/03	650	1,030	10,445	7,670	14,460
2003/04	690	1,115	10,390	8,110	17,670

[1] Figures exclude students on combined science or combined language courses who study the subjects shown in the table as part of these courses.

[2] Covers Chinese languages, literature and culture.

[3] Covers Middle Eastern languages, literature and culture, including Arabic.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Teacher Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action she proposes to take to encourage more people to enter teacher training and to increase the number of options for the training of teachers. [4238]

Jacqui Smith: The total number of trainees recruited to initial teacher training courses in 2004/05 entry year was 41,147. This is the highest recorded number of new entrants in any one year.

Since 2000 a number of financial incentives have existed for Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) students to encourage people to train to teach. The package of incentives has just been reviewed and from September 2006 a new range of incentives will be available:

an increase in financial incentives for maths and science trainees to £9,000 bursary and £5,000 golden hello;

an increase in the bursary for other shortage subjects such as modern languages, Design and Technology, Information and Communications Technology, English (including drama), Music and Religious Education(RE) to £9,000 with a £2,500 Golden Hello. Music and RE trainees currently get the £6,000 bursary only;

a continuation of the £6,000 bursary for all other PGCE student teachers This represents no change on the current position.

To ensure that people wishing to enter teaching have as many options open to them as possible there has been a significant expansion in the provision of flexible and employment-based routes to Qualified Teacher Status including the Graduate Teacher Programme in the last five years.

Temporary Classrooms

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many temporary classrooms are in use in each local education authority. [751]

Jacqui Smith: The following table shows numbers of temporary buildings on school premises for each English local education authority. The figures are derived from data supplied to the Department by authorities. Not all temporary buildings are used for teaching. They may accommodate one or more classrooms.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996–97 to £5.5 billion this year and will rise further to £6.3 billion by 2007–08. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority.

Modern, high quality mobile or demountable classrooms provide a good environment for teaching and learning where there is short term need. They might, for instance, be needed to cope with a short term increase in pupil numbers, or where extensive remodelling or rebuilding of permanent accommodation means providing temporary accommodation on the school site, rather than transporting children elsewhere.

Numbers of temporary buildings on school premises

	Temporary buildings
Barking and Dagenham	9
Barnet	—
Barnsley	34
Bath and North East Somerset	—
Bedfordshire	205
Bexley	174
Birmingham	320
Blackburn with Darwen	1
Blackpool	1
Bolton	6
Bournemouth	38
Bracknell Forest	39
Bradford	107
Brent	70
Brighton and Hove	72
Bristol, City of	114
Bromley	28
Buckinghamshire	100
Bury	—
Calderdale	—
Cambridgeshire	128
Camden	—
Cheshire	264
City of London	—
Cornwall	174
Coventry	28
Croydon	116
Cumbria	42
Darlington	—
Derby	39
Derbyshire	303
Devon	345
Doncaster	60
Dorset	—
Dudley	115
Durham	65
Ealing	119
East Riding of Yorkshire	104
East Sussex	208
Enfield	—
Essex	742
Gateshead	72
Gloucestershire	—
Greenwich	—
Hackney	10
Halton	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	—
Hampshire	635
Haringey	30
Harrow	146
Hartlepool	6
Havering	2
Herefordshire	76
Hertfordshire	272
Hillingdon	90
Hounslow	53
Isle of Wight	90
Isles of Scilly	—
Islington	11
Kensington and Chelsea	3
Kent	912
Kingston upon Hull, City of	77
Kingston upon Thames	—
Kirklees	120
Knowsley	—
Lambeth	41
Lancashire	29
Leeds	263
Leicester	67
Leicestershire	432
Lewisham	32
Lincolnshire	294
Liverpool	40
Luton	—
Manchester	42
Medway	—
Merton	4
Middlesbrough	25
Milton Keynes	24
Newcastle upon Tyne	—
Newham	89

Numbers of temporary buildings on school premises

	Temporary buildings
Norfolk	837
North East Lincolnshire	81
North Lincolnshire	164
North Somerset	142
North Tyneside	29
North Yorkshire	—
Northamptonshire	320
Northumberland	2
Nottingham	—
Nottinghamshire	169
Oldham	33
Oxfordshire	239
Peterborough	63
Plymouth	107
Poole	46
Portsmouth	6
Reading	1
Redbridge	—
Redcar and Cleveland	21
Richmond upon Thames	16
Rochdale	—
Rotherham	151
Rutland	7
Salford	5
Sandwell	27
Sefton	46
Sheffield	98
Shropshire	56
Slough	33
Solihull	103
Somerset	431
South Gloucestershire	—
South Tyneside	—
Southampton	42
Southend-on-Sea	25

Numbers of temporary buildings on school premises

	Temporary buildings
Southwark	11
St. Helens	10
Staffordshire	334
Stockport	54
Stockton-on-Tees	63
Stoke-on-Trent	—
Suffolk	109
Sunderland	26
Surrey	—
Sutton	104
Swindon	63
Tameside	50
Telford and Wrekin	126
Thurrock	—
Torbay	66
Tower Hamlets	12
Trafford	—
Wakefield	—
Walsall	15
Waltham Forest	19
Wandsworth	22
Warrington	45
Warwickshire	368
West Berkshire	73
West Sussex	336
Westminster	—
Wigan	32
Wiltshire	193
Windsor and Maidenhead	52
Wirral	134
Wokingham	68
Wolverhampton	—
Worcestershire	185
York	57

'—' signifies that either no data have been supplied by LEAs, or there are clearly significant data anomalies.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 15 June 2005

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ministerial Meetings

11. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the outcome of his recent meetings with the political parties in Northern Ireland. [3021]

Mr. Hain: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris), *Official Report*, cols. 244–45.

IRA

12. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the current level of IRA activities. [3022]

Mr. Woodward: The recent IMC report stated that the Provisional IRA continues to recruit and train new members. It continues to be involved in organised crime, and in paramilitary beatings and exiling. It is now time for all paramilitary activity and criminality to come to an end.

Security (North Belfast)

15. **Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the security situation in north Belfast; and if he will make a statement. [3025]

Mr. Woodward: Despite a number of incidents in North Belfast recently, the police have assured me they will have the resources to manage any foreseeable incidents which may occur.

Education

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made with plans to reform the structure of education in Northern Ireland. [3019]

Angela E. Smith: Northern Ireland's new post-primary arrangements are not about changing the structure of education. They are about providing real choice and flexibility for children by keeping options open and raising standards for all. Existing school types will continue and we offer access to a wider range of courses through the entitlement framework. We remain on schedule to put key arrangements in place before 2008, when the final transfer tests take place.

Influenza

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the stockpiling of antiviral drugs in the Province to protect against an outbreak of influenza. [3023]

Mr. Woodward: Earlier this year my right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State for Health approved a flexible plan to purchase stocks of anti-virals for the whole of the UK. The Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) agreed that Northern Ireland would co-join with the other parts of the UK in the two-year purchasing plan and subject to Department of Finance giving approval, funding for the purchase is available within existing resources. Discussions are ongoing about delivery plans to the province.

Northern Bank Robbery

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress in the investigations into the Northern Bank robbery in Belfast in 2004. [3024]

Mr. Woodward: The investigation into the Northern Bank robbery on 20 December 2004 is ongoing and continues to be one of the largest investigations currently undertaken by the PSNI. By the very nature of the crime committed, the investigation is complex, methodical and resource intensive and to date over 3,300 separate investigative actions have been raised. PSNI remain committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice but as with any serious crime investigation, the police will only conduct searches or make arrests at a time that is in the best interests of the investigation and the administration of justice.

Abortion

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he will take to ensure adequate consultation with *(a)* the public and *(b)* interested organisations in relation to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's development of guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland. [4054]

Mr. Woodward: The terms of the Court of Appeal Order require the Department to consider what steps it should take to inquire into the adequacy of termination of pregnancy services provided in Northern Ireland (including aftercare); and following such inquiry, and after appropriate consultation with concerned organisations, issue appropriate guidance. Once the draft guidance has been produced, the Department will consult with concerned organisations.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the minutes of meetings of the Working Party on guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland. [4055]

Mr. Woodward: The Departmental Working Group met on 21 January 2005 to consider the way forward on the court of appeal judgment and the minutes of this meeting are available on request from Family Policy Unit within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what workshops the Working Party drawing up guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland has held; and if he will publish the reports of such meetings. [4056]

Mr. Woodward: In order to inform the development of guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland, a workshop was organised on 4 May. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the opportunity for some initial consideration into what individuals/groups require guidance, what this guidance should contain and how best to take this work forward.

Given the exploratory nature of the meeting and to enable a free and frank exchange of views, no formal record was taken, but it was agreed that guidance would be needed for the General Public, Clinicians and GPs. It was also concluded that guidance should cover issues such as conscientious objection, informed consent, and consistency in recording of decisions and good clinical practice.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the Working Party on the development of guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland to report to the Department. [4148]

Mr. Woodward: Work has already commenced but given the complex nature of this issue it is difficult to determine what the time scale for completion of guidance will be. We will take this work forward as expeditiously as possible.

Belfast City Airport

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the review of the planning agreement affecting Belfast City airport. [3509]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of Environment is currently considering a number of options on how best to progress this review and expects to be able to make an announcement on the way forward in early July 2005.

Carers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated by his Department to help unpaid carers in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [3508]

Mr. Woodward: In 2004–05, the Social Security Agency paid £84.5 million in Carers Allowance. In addition, the Health and Personal Social Services provides support for carers with assessed needs through its social care programmes. Information on this expenditure is gathered by service, rather than reason for care and it is therefore not possible to specify how much was spent directly on carers. In 2005–06, an additional investment of £400,000 is being made in the development of flexible and responsive respite services, which will be of direct benefit to carers.

Contracted-out Employees (Terms and Conditions)

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Government's commitment to ensure that workers employed by the private sector doing work previously done in the public sector do not have less favourable terms and conditions than those who remain employed by the public sector applies in Northern Ireland in the same way as it does in the rest of the UK. [3149]

Angela E. Smith: The Government are committed to ensuring that work forces in Northern Ireland continue to receive the same protection as in the rest of the UK, in line with government policy as set out in the "Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Public Sector Contracts" announced by the Prime Minister on 18 March. Work is being taken forward to apply this Code formally in Northern Ireland as quickly as possible. A copy of the code is available at the following website: http:7/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/opsr/workforce_reform/code_of_practice/index. asp

Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the *(a)* funding and *(b)* provision of drug and alcohol rehabilitation in Northern Ireland. [3490]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested on funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation is not available centrally.

Rehabilitation is an integral part of all drug and alcohol treatment whether community or in-patient based. The cost of this generic rehabilitation cannot be disaggregated from the total costs of such programmes. The majority of drug rehabilitation can and does take place in the community as part of an overall community care and rehabilitation programme and provision exists within each board area to refer individuals to rehabilitation centres outside Northern Ireland if deemed to be clinically appropriate.

I will write to the hon. Lady about provision within the non-statutory sector as soon as the information is received from Health and Social Services Boards.

Environmental Protection Agency

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to create an independent environmental protection agency in Northern Ireland. [3569]

Angela E. Smith: In May 2004 a coalition of environmental non-governmental organisations launched a report for public consultation, by Professor Richard Macrory, entitled Transparency and Trust: Reshaping Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland. In October 2004 the coalition published an analysis of the comments received and indicated that the majority of respondents were in favour of the establishment of an independent environment protection body in Northern Ireland.

I met with the coalition on 2 November 2004 and agreed that the Department of the Environment would explore in detail with the coalition the possible terms of reference for such an inquiry. Those discussions are continuing.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on measures to tackle fuel poverty. [4152]

Mr. Hanson: None, however officials within the Department for Social Development are in regular contact with their colleagues in other parts of the UK to monitor developments in their fuel poverty strategies and their steps to tackle fuel poverty.

Health Policy (Strangford)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Strangford constituency, the effects on Strangford of health policies implemented by his Department since 1997. [3664]

Mr. Woodward: There have been improvements in the number of deaths and in life expectancy of the residents of the Strangford parliamentary constituency since 1997:

The overall death rate has fallen in the constituency from 9.27 per 1,000 persons in 1998 to 8.19 in 2003.

Life expectancy for males has increased from 74.8 years to 77.0 and for females from 79.5 years to 81.7 years since 1997.

Deaths due to circulatory disease have reduced from 3.66 per 1,000 in 1997 to 3.22 per 1,000 persons in 2003.

Deaths due to respiratory disease have reduced from 1.73 per 1,000 in 1997 to 1.30 per 1,000 in 2003.

Literacy Teaching

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to initiate a review of literacy teaching in primary schools in Northern Ireland. [3473]

Angela E. Smith: Under the School Improvement Programme, a Literacy (and Numeracy) Strategy is in place. The Literacy Strategy is updated annually, in consultation with Education and Library Boards, to ensure that it is meeting the needs of pupils and schools.

Multiple Sclerosis (Beta Interferon)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many multiple sclerosis sufferers are receiving Beta Interferon in each health board; how many were waiting for the drug in each board in each of the past three years; and if he will make a statement.[4103]

Mr. Woodward: The number of people in each Health and Social Services Board area receiving disease modifying treatment for multiple sclerosis (beta interferon or glatiramer acetate) is as follows:

Health and social services board	*Number receiving treatment*
Eastern	219
Northern	177
Southern	104
Western	73
NI total	573

Note:
Figures include 22 patients who have started a course of treatment but are currently on a break from treatment.

Information about waiting lists for disease modifying treatments was not routinely collected prior to May 2004. The number of patients waiting for treatment in May 2004 and May 2005 was as follows:

Health and social services board	*Number waiting to begin treatment at 31 May 2004*	*Number waiting to begin treatment at 31 May 2005*
Eastern	19	37
Northern	28	42
Southern	12	10
Western	14	17
NI Total	73	106

The Department remains committed to improving access to specialist drugs which offer the potential for significant improvement in patient care. Disease modifying treatments for people with multiple sclerosis have been available in Northern Ireland since the mid-1990s. In recent years, substantial additional funding has been made available to Health and Social Services Boards for a wide range of specialist medicines, including beta interferon. Funding has also been provided to support the infrastructure for the provision of disease modifying treatment for people with multiple sclerosis.

NHS Employment (Foreign Nationals)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals have applied for employment within the national health service in Northern Ireland over the last three years, broken down by type of employment. [4073]

Mr. Woodward: Information on the nationality of applicants for employment is not held.

Pension Rights

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will amend the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee regulations to allow partners of deceased pensioners the same pension rights as widows and widowers of deceased pensioners. [3483]

Angela E. Smith: There are no plans to introduce such benefits at present, other than those required for civil partners under the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

The Northern Ireland Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee, in common with those in Scotland, maintain broad parity with the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations in England and Wales.

The possibility of further extending survivor benefits in the LGPS in England and Wales to include same or opposite sex partners, other than spouses or civil partners was one of the propositions included in the consultation document "Facing the Future", published by the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in October 2004. The consultation document is available on the ODPM website at www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com. The Deputy Prime Minister has recently established a committee comprising employer, trade union and ODPM representatives to consider and negotiate the long-term future of the LGPS.

Planning Applications

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many retrospective planning applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in Northern Ireland in each of the past three years. [3502]

Angela E. Smith: The Planning Service does not record separate information on retrospective planning applications, as these applications are dealt with in the same way as standard planning applications. As this information is not routinely collected, it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Planning Policy

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will give a date for the publication of the draft retail planning policy document for Northern Ireland. [3291]

Angela E. Smith: It is hoped that draft planning policy statement 5—Retailing, Town Centres and Commercial Leisure Developments will be published shortly.

Hoax Calls (Emergency Services)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many telephone calls to the emergency services in Northern Ireland in each of the past 12 months were discovered to be prank calls; what penalties are in place for those caught making prank calls to the emergency services; and if he will estimate the cost in *(a)* monetary and *(b)* other terms of prank calls in that period. [3496]

Mr. Woodward: Information provided by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) and the Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) on the numbers of hoax calls in each of the past 12 months for which statistics are available is as follows:

	Fire	*Ambulance*	*Police*
2004			
May	—	259	—
June	455	239	[1]—
July	567	233	[1]—
August	496	277	[1]—
September	492	205	[1]—
October	490	205	[1]—
November	385	201	[1]—
December	333	235	[1]—
2005			
January	457	199	[1]—
February	437	175	[1]—
March	529	354	[1]—
April	426	366	[1]—
May	440	—	[1]—
Total	5,507	2,948	[1]875

[1] Police figure covers the period 1 June 2004 to 31 May 2005. A monthly breakdown is not available.

Under the Communications Act 2003, the maximum penalty for those caught making hoax or malicious calls is a fine not exceeding £5,000 and/or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months.

NIFRS, NIAS and PSNI estimate the costs of hoax calls at £141,250, £442,200 and £31,336 respectively during the reporting periods.

It is extremely difficult to quantify the indirect costs of hoax calls. However, the most serious cost is the potential for serious injury or loss of life if the emergency services are not available to respond to genuine emergencies or are delayed in responding because crews are deployed responding to hoax calls.

Speech Therapists

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to attract more speech therapists to the NHS in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [4106]

Mr. Woodward: The recruitment of staff, including speech and language therapists, is a matter for individual Health and Social Services Trusts taking into account factors such as service needs and available resources. The Department provided additional funding to increase by 10 the number of student places with effect from the 2001–02 academic year and by a further five places from 2002–03. These increased intake levels are being maintained and the annual commission is 40 student places. There are 152 students in training during the current academic year.

Suicide

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was made available by his Department for suicide awareness campaigns and support groups for those affected by suicide in the last year for which figures are available. [3476]

Mr. Woodward: In 2004–05, the Department provided £350,000 to take forward the actions in the Mental Health Promotion Strategy including a specific campaign aimed at young men; £60,390 was paid to regional voluntary organisations, which provide counselling services, and £228,353 was paid to local groups providing counselling services which includes those affected by suicide.

University of Ulster

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with senior management of the University of Ulster regarding the report of Sir Michael Buckley. [3479]

Angela E. Smith: As this is a matter for the internal management of the university the Department of Employment and Learning has not received a copy of Sir Michael Buckley's report. The Department has discussed the matters considered by Sir Michael with the university's authorities and has sought, and received assurances, that none of these matters presented a risk to public funds. It has reminded the university that any severance terms for the Vice-Chancellor should comply with established guidelines and should not be funded from the Department's grant.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has been informed of the findings of Sir Michael Buckley's inquiry into senior management practice at the University of Ulster. [3481]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of Employment and Learning has not received a copy of Sir Michael Buckley's report. It has been kept informed by the university's authorities of the issues being considered, so that it can assure itself that those issues relevant to financial management and accountability have been addressed.

Waste Dumping (Asbestos)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps he has taken to eradicate cross-border illegal dumping of waste, with particular reference to asbestos. [3515]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of the Environment is aware of the scale and nature of illegal dumping in Northern Ireland, and all possible action is being taken to combat it. The Environment and Heritage Service continues to carry out investigations and prepare prosecution cases in incidents where waste is illegally disposed of in Northern Ireland, regardless of its origin.

Several cases, including those involving illegal disposal of waste from the Republic of Ireland, are due to be heard in the Crown court. These are the first cases relating to environmental criminal offences to be dealt with in a higher court, where there is potential for unlimited financial penalties and prison sentences. The Department has also taken over responsibility for Transfrontier Shipment of Waste, which will allow us to exercise tighter control.

The recently established Waste Task Force is exploring measures to strengthen still further the regulatory regime and I will be bringing forward proposals for new legislation as soon as possible.

Legislation is in place for the safe removal and disposal of asbestos and waste containing asbestos. District councils have the statutory responsibility for fly-tipped waste. However, EHS does work closely with the councils and the Health and Safety Executive for NI to resolve issues involving asbestos waste.

PRIME MINISTER

Belarus

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the President of Belarus on increasing democracy and accountability; and if he will make a statement. [3653]

The Prime Minister: I have had no recent discussions with the President of Belarus.

G8 summit

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Prime Minister what the outcome was of his recent meeting with President Bush regarding the G8 summit. [3801]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave at Prime Minister's Questions on 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1234–44, and to the press conference I held with President Bush, a transcript of which is available on the No. 10 website.

Local Elections

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister for what reason responsibility for local elections has been transferred from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to the Department of Constitutional Affairs. [3618]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Number 10 press notice issued on 23 May 2005 on Machinery of Government changes, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Prerogative

Mr. Allen: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the powers available to him under the Royal Prerogative. [2826]

The Prime Minister: The powers available to the Prime Minister under the Royal Prerogative have evolved over many years and it is not possible precisely to define them.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to make it a requirement for Parliament to be consulted on the use of his power under the Royal Prerogative to take the country to war; and if he will make a statement. [3342]

The Prime Minister: The Government recognise the desire for parliamentary scrutiny of decisions to deploy our armed forces, and has shown that it will provide opportunities for debate when this arises. A formal requirement to consult Parliament is, therefore, unnecessary and could prejudice the Government's ability to take swift action to defend our national security where the circumstances so require.

Social Behaviour

Mr. Allen: To ask the Prime Minister if he will establish a Royal Commission to develop a long-term strategy on improving and promoting social behaviour and reducing antisocial behaviour. [2869]

The Prime Minister: No. The Government have a wide-ranging strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour. During this Parliament, we will step this up by driving through cultural change in local communities, especially in deprived areas. This will be a Government-wide programme led by the Home Office, with the active support of a number of Government Departments. I will also chair the Cabinet Committee on antisocial behaviour in order to take this agenda forward and consider what further actions need to be taken.

TREASURY

Business Taxes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to maximise collection of taxes and revenues from businesses. [2937]

Dawn Primarolo: To assist business customers in payment of taxes and revenues the Department offers a wide range of help and advice to businesses through its 'Large Business' and 'Small and Medium Enterprises' units. The Department then offers a wide range of

options to make it as easy as possible for payments to be made promptly and on time. This includes encouraging customers to pay electronically and to this end a flexible range of e-payment methods is available to business customers.

Several methods are also available to encourage future compliance and to secure payment from the non-compliant, for example legal proceedings through the courts.

Child Trust Fund

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the rate of take-up to date of the Child Trust Fund; what plans he has to increase take-up; and what estimates he has made of future take-ups. [4538]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 286–87W. Although it is still very early days for the Child Trust Fund, I am encouraged that parents have seized the initiative on savings. Nearly one third of vouchers have already been used. It is in the interests of children that parents use the Child Trust Fund voucher to open a Child Trust Fund account as soon as they feel ready to do so. The sooner vouchers are invested, the sooner Child Trust Fund accounts can start to grow. Child Trust Fund advertising on television, radio, online and in national and consumer press will resume on 1 July 2005.

Civil Servants

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil service posts have been transferred from London to deprived areas of the South East in the past 12 months; how many posts are under consideration for such transfer; and if he will make a statement. [3930]

Mr. Des Browne: The Government are relocating posts out of London and the South East in accordance with Sir Michael Lyons' recommendations. However, the Lyons Review recognised that in some circumstances departments might be able to make strong business cases for relocating from London to deprived parts of the South East. Twenty-two posts either have transferred or are under consideration for transfer from London to deprived areas of the South East. It is for individual departments to decide on relocation destinations, according to their business needs and taking account of published guidance which promotes consideration of deprived areas, and comprehensive information is not maintained centrally on locations being considered by departments.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many council tax valuations the Valuation Office Agency have made in England in each year since 1997. [4318]

Dawn Primarolo: In the course of maintaining the council tax valuation lists in England, and excluding cases where no action has been taken, the Valuation Office Agency has made new or altered bandings as follows:

	£
1997–98	388,239
1998–99	357,403
1999–2000	355,825
2000–01	338,566
2001–02	330,379
2002–03	345,552
2003–04	351,245
2004–05	370,019

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the number of appeals against council tax valuations in England for each year since 1997. [4320]

Dawn Primarolo: In the course of maintaining valuation lists in England the Valuation Office Agency has received the following number of valid council tax appeals:

	£
1997–98	71,848
1998–99	56,420
1999–2000	45,368
2000–01	41,093
2001–02	33,490
2002–03	30,252
2003–04	28,275
2004–05	28,470

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the council tax band of the residences of *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Downing street. [4317]

Dawn Primarolo: The council tax band of the residences of *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in Downing street, are publicly available in the Council Tax Valuation List. These can be accessed, online, via the Valuation Office Agency's website, www.voa.gov.uk.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency will have powers to enter residential premises when inspecting them during the forthcoming council tax revaluation process in England. [4174]

Dawn Primarolo: It is a function of the listing officers, throughout the Valuation Office Agency, to carry out valuations for the purposes of compiling the new lists on 1 April 2007. Section 26(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides power of entry for inspection, subject to the requirements of section 26(2) and 26 (3), to provide written notice and production of authorisation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency will take into account the *(a)* number of bathrooms, *(b)* number of bedrooms, *(c)* floor area, *(d)* age of the property, *(e)* off-street parking, *(f)* out-buildings, *(g)* conservatories and *(h)* size of garden when valuing a residence in the forthcoming council tax revaluation process in England. [4231]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the intention of the Valuation Office Agency, when assigning dwellings to bands for the forthcoming council tax revaluation, to reflect a number of property attributes, including all those referred to, where a value significance can be established.

Flat Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what studies his Department has conducted or commissioned about a 'flat tax' for *(a)* personal taxes and *(b)* business taxes; and if he will make a statement. [4535]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government actively monitors the international developments in taxation, including the countries that have introduced 'flat tax' regimes. The Government have not conducted or commissioned studies on the introduction of a 'flat tax' in the UK.

Game Rearing Farms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many game rearing farms are registered as valued for non-domestic rates with the Valuation Office Agency in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [4520]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 9 June 2005 there are 128 game rearing farms listed in the 2005 rating lists. These are available on the Valuation Office Agency's website at www.voa.gov.uk , of which *(a)* 120 are in England and *(b)* eight are in Wales.

Hard-working families

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his definition is of a hard-working family. [3755]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to supporting families who work hard to balance their work and family commitments looking after children and their dependents. That is why we are increasing financial support for families through tax credits, extending paid maternity leave, taking action to improve the quality, availability and affordability of child care, and helping record numbers of people into employment.

Income Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals paid a combined deduction rate on their income in excess of 40 per cent. for the latest five years for which data is available; and if he will make a statement. [4533]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is unavailable.

Insurance Availability (Criminals)

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the insurance industry on the availability of insurance products for individuals who have a criminal record. [4672]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I and my officials regularly meet representatives of the insurance industry to discuss a variety of issues.

I understand that cover for ex-offenders seeking general insurance products is available in the market. The practice of insurance companies varies from case to case, however, and it may be necessary for people to look across the market for acceptable cover.

National Income

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will break down post-tax national income by *(a)* decile and *(b)* quintile for each year since 1997. [3889]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Paul Goodman, dated 15 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for a breakdown of post-tax national income by *(a)* decile and *(b)* quintile for each year since 1997. I am replying in his absence. (3889)

Estimates for post-tax national income by quantile are not available but estimates for post-tax household income are shown in the following tables. These have been produced from the Office for National Statistics' analyses 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income' and the latest analysis for 2002–03 was published on the National Statistics website on 6 May 2004 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. The analyses include measures of income inequality for households in the United Kingdom as a whole based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey (the Family and Expenditure Survey from 1997–98 to 2000–01). This is a sample survey covering about 6,000 to 7,000 households in the UK. The analysis for 2003–04 is due to be published on the National Statistics website on 7 July 2005.

The tables show a breakdown of post-tax household income in terms of the average annual amount per household for each year between 1997–98 and 2002–03 for all households in the UK, and for each income decile and quintile group where households are ranked by equivalised disposable income. Equivalisation is a standard methodology that takes into account the size and composition of households and adjusts their incomes to recognise differing demands on resources. The tables also show the equivalised disposable income decile and quintile point boundaries, which have been calculated separately for each year. For example, the 1st decile point is the income below which one tenth of all households are estimated to lie. The decile and quintile point boundaries differ between each year as shown in the tables.

Post-tax income is defined as income (after government intervention) net of estimates of direct taxes and indirect taxes. Indirect taxes include intermediate taxes which are the portion of indirect taxes that are passed on by businesses to households.

Distribution of post-tax income, by decile, 1997–98 to 2002–03

United Kingdom					*Average per household (£ per year)*	
	1997–98		*1998–99*		*1999–2000*	
Decile	*Income boundary*[1]	*Post-tax income*	*Income boundary*[1]	*Post-tax income*	*Income boundary*[1]	*Post-tax income*
Bottom		3,409		3,340		3,095
	6,766		7,048		7,372	
2nd		5,664		5,925		5,943
	8,504		8,785		9,171	

Distribution of post-tax income, by decile, 1997–98 to 2002–03

United Kingdom	Average per household (£ per year)					
	1997–98		1998–99		1999–2000	
Decile	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income
3rd	10,146	6,709	10,438	7,074	11,009	7,246
4th	11,922	8,745	12,494	9,076	13,173	9,317
5th	13,917	11,176	14,628	11,511	15,629	11,886
6th	16,342	13,188	17,192	13,498	18,208	14,428
7th	19,316	15,600	20,343	16,166	21,348	17,301
8th	23,457	19,376	24,255	19,338	26,115	20,001
9th	30,451	23,705	31,830	23,908	33,706	26,116
Top		39,277		42,774		46,011
Average for all households		14,685		15,261		16,134

United Kingdom	Average per household (£ per year)					
	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03	
Decile	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income
Bottom	7,775	3,537	8,214	3,287	8,972	4,043
2nd	9,790	6,408	10,356	7,038	11,196	7,969
3rd	11,600	8,125	12,361	8,672	13,151	9,652
4th	13,808	10,079	14,670	10,910	15,516	11,523
5th	16,173	12,627	17,179	13,682	18,048	14,103
6th	19,029	14,841	19,910	16,132	20,860	16,668
7th	22,367	18,250	23,691	19,584	24,579	20,803
8th	27,109	21,299	28,469	23,915	29,575	25,131
9th	35,249	26,156	37,095	29,421	38,275	30,841
Top		47,226		53,314		49,284
Average for all households		16,855		18,595		19,002

[1] Boundary point between equivalised disposable income deciles.

Source:
Office for National Statistics, based on the analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income', published on the ONS website and in Economic Trends.

Distribution of post-tax income, by quintile, 1997–98 to 2002–03

United Kingdom	Average per household (£ per year)					
	1997–98		1998–99		1999–2000	
Quintile	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income
Bottom	8,504	4,537	8,785	4,633	9,171	4,519
2nd	11,922	7,727	12,494	8,075	13,173	8,282
3rd	16,342	12,182	17,192	12,505	18,208	13,157
4th	23,457	17,488	24,255	17,752	26,115	18,651
Top		31,491		33,341		36,064
Average for all households		14,685		15,261		16,134

United Kingdom	Average per household (£ per year)					
	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03	
Quintile	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income	Income boundary[1]	Post-tax income
Bottom	9,790	4,973	10,356	5,162	11,196	6,006
2nd	13,808	9,102	14,670	9,791	15,516	10,587
3rd	19,029	13,734	19,910	14,907	20,860	15,386

United Kingdom — *Average per household (£ per year)*

Quintile	*2000–01* *Income boundary*[1]	*Post-tax income*	*2001–02* *Income boundary*[1]	*Post-tax income*	*2002–03* *Income boundary*[1]	*Post-tax income*
4th	27,109	19,774	28,469	21,749	29,575	22,967
Top		36,691		41,367		40,063
Average for all households		16,855		18,595		19,002

[1] Boundary point between equivalised disposable income quintiles.
Source:
Office for National Statistics, based on the analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income', published on the ONS website and in Economic Trends.

National Insurance

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people living in the UK qualify for a National Insurance number; and on what basis they qualify. [3726]

Dawn Primarolo: All young people resident in the UK who are the subject of a child benefit claim qualify for a National Insurance number (NINO) which is issued to them around the age of 15 years and 9 months. An individual resident in the UK is qualified to register for a NINO if they meet certain employment or benefit-related criteria. They must never have registered before, be aged 16 or over, be employed and/or self-employed, or not employed but wish to be or would benefit from paying Class 3 voluntary contributions. Alternatively they must be eligible for and seeking to claim a social security benefit or tax credit.

There are 73 million NINOs registered on the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS2) (this total includes, among others, numbers for deceased persons and those who have gone abroad). We do not know how many people who would qualify for NINO registration do not apply.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change the rate of national insurance contributions. [1362]

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change the rate of national insurance contributions. [3752]

Dawn Primarolo: From April 2003 an additional 1 per cent. national insurance contribution (NIC) by employers, employees and the self-employed was introduced on all earnings above the NICs threshold to deliver the largest sustained spending growth in the history of the NHS while meeting the fiscal rules.

Offshore Facilities

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on UK publicly-funded companies moving services offshore to avoid tax or national insurance payments; and if he will make a statement. [3340]

Dawn Primarolo: It is Government policy that Departments and non-departmental public bodies should not seek to minimise tax liabilities through transactions or activities for which there is no genuine justification in economic terms, and should apply restrictions on the use of offshore jurisdictions by successful bidders to procurement contracts, where such restrictions are justified in terms of the objectives of the project and consistent with international obligations and stated objectives on tax transparency and openness. This is made clear in the "Dear Accounting Officer" letter sent by HM Treasury to Departments on 22 May 2003 (DAO Gen/03). Public corporations follow the same rules for managing tax liabilities as private companies.

Private/Public Finance Initiative

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which circumstances would *(a)* qualify private finance initiative to be considered for and *(b)* exclude it from being considered for public borrowing requirements; [3665]

(2) how much public finance initiative funding has been written off since its inception. [3666]

John Healey: The Government follow rules based upon internationally agreed standards of commercial accounting practice, policed by the independent accounting watchdog, the FRAB (Financial Reporting Advisory Board), when accounting for PFI transactions.

All PFI deals are subject to audit by the NAO or another UK audit body. Where they judge that assets in PFI deals should be on a public authority's balance sheet the value of those assets is scored as public sector net borrowing.

Approximately half of all signed PFI deals are judged under this process to be 'off-balance sheet'.

Stamp Duty

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 201W, on stamp duty, what the forecast revenues from stamp duty on *(a)* residential properties and *(b)* commercial properties are in (i) 2004–05 and (ii) 2005–06. [4217]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Estimated and projected revenues for total stamp taxes in 2004–05 and 2005–06 are published in Table C8 of the Budget 2005 report. The Stamp Duty Land Tax component of these figures is estimated at £6.3 billion in 2004–05 and £6.7 billion in 2005–06.

Separate estimates for Stamp Duty Land Tax receipts for 2004–05 from both residential and commercial property will be published later this year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average stamp duty paid for a residential property purchase in *(a)* each Government Office region, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland has been in each year since 1997. [4278]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Estimates of average stamp duty on land and property by Country and Region are given in the following table. Reliable estimates are only readily available for Scotland for 2003–04.

Averages : £

	1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
North East	320	300	410	450	730	790	1,060
North West	350	430	540	580	730	970	1,310
Yorkshire and the Humber	370	370	510	490	570	950	1,300
East Midlands	330	450	590	700	770	1,150	1,780
West Midlands	470	560	700	830	1,110	1,400	1,830
East of England	750	940	1,090	1,480	1,970	2,260	2,990
London	1,890	2,040	2,800	3,730	4,490	4,760	5,340
South East	1,080	1,450	1,780	2,150	2,760	3,110	3,770
South West	680	790	1,030	1,330	1,570	1,990	2,560
Wales	330	380	470	540	590	1,030	1,420
Scotland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,210
Northern Ireland	240	320	470	730	1,000	800	1,080

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount raised in stamp duty on *(a)* residential property and *(b)* commercial property in (i) each Government Office region, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland has been in each year since 1997. [4279]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Estimates of the amount of stamp duty raised on residential land and property transactions are available at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15_2_october04.pdf

Estimates for stamp duty raised on commercial transactions are given in the same format in the following table:

Yield : £ million

	1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
United Kingdom	665	1,075	1,360	1,540	1,445	1,485	1,190
England and Wales	615	995	1,255	1,405	1,285	1,350	960
North East	20	25	30	25	25	35	25
North West	50	70	95	105	100	145	100
Yorkshire and the Humber	35	50	75	85	75	85	80
East Midlands	31	130	70	60	65	80	50
West Midlands	45	85	90	90	110	120	85
East of England	55	80	110	115	155	135	90
London	210	290	440	500	390	350	245
South East	110	170	225	290	250	215	175
South West	45	65	90	100	95	135	85
Wales	15	30	30	35	30	45	30
Scotland and Northern Ireland	50	80	105	135	160	135	230

Tax Credit

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to the HM Revenue and Customs prosecution policy against fraudulent tax credit claims. [4376]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no changes to criminal sanctions policy for tax credit offences caused by the creation of HM Revenue and Customs. The same policy operates as used by the former Inland Revenue.

Mr. Jack: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the administrative cost of dealing with all aspects of tax credit overpayments made since April 2003. [1166]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the right hon. Member to my reply to him and the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 298W.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 293W, on Inland Revenue, for what reasons information on the number of complaints on tax credit received is not collected; if he will take steps to ensure the number of complaints is *(a)* recorded and *(b)* published; and if he will make a statement. [2873]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* My hon. Friend's original question asked how many complaints have been made *(a)* directly and *(b)* through hon. Members in the last 12 months on how the Inland Revenue office in Preston deals with tax

credit queries. The Department does not keep records of the number of complaints made specifically about the way the Tax Credit Office deal with queries, so it was not possible to provide a figure.'

For the numbers of complaints for 2003–04, I refer my hon. Friend to the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General published with the Annual Report and Accounts of the Inland Revenue for the year 2003–04. For 2003–04, the Inland Revenue counted the number of complaints rather than the number of people who complained. For 2004–05, to be consistent with the rest of the Department, the Tax Credits Office counted the number of people who made written complaints.

In 2004–05, complaints were received in around 42,000 cases directly from claimants. Around 9,000 complaints were also made through Members of the House of Commons.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ask the Comptroller and Auditor General to carry out a review of the tax credit office in Preston and to make recommendations for improvement. [4187]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* The Comptroller and Auditor General and the National Audit Office have their own programme of work. They will report on the separate 2004–05 accounts of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise in the autumn. The report on the Inland Revenue will include consideration of tax credits.

Tax Investigations (Northern Ireland)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Northern Ireland have been subject to two or more tax investigations in the past five years. [3663]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of gross income was paid by *(a)* all households, *(b)* the bottom quintile group and *(c)* the top quintile group in (i) direct taxation, (ii) indirect taxation and (iii) all taxes in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [4059]

John Healey: This information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Dr. Vincent Cable, dated 15 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of gross income was paid by *(a)* all households, *(b)* the bottom quintile group and *(c)* the top quintile group in (i) direct taxation, (ii) indirect taxation and (iii) all taxes in the latest year for which figures are available. I am replying in his absence. (4059).

The proportion of gross income that was paid in taxes in 2002–03 (the latest year for which data are available) by *(a)* all households types, *(b)* the bottom quintile group and *(c)* the top quintile group can be obtained from Table 3 of 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income 2002–2003', published on the National Statistics website on 6 May 2004 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits.

The analysis includes measures of income inequality for households in the United Kingdom as a whole based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey. This is a sample survey covering about 7,000 households in the UK.

The analysis for 2003–04 is due to be published on the National Statistics website on 7 July 2005.

Taxpayer Numbers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* starting rate, *(b)* basic rate and *(c)* higher rate taxpayers there have been in each year since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [4531]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to National Statistics table 2.1 on HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1.xls

Figures prior to 1990–91 can be found in Table 1.5 of Inland Revenue Statistics 1992, a copy of which is in the Library.

Tobin Tax

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Finance Ministers of other Governments about the viability of a Tobin tax. [3707]

Dawn Primarolo: At the June G8 meeting, Ministers agreed on a work programme on the IFF and its pilot (the IFF for Immunisation), some of the revenue proposals from the Landau Report brought forward by France and Germany, the Millennium Challenge Account and other financing measures. We believe the International Finance Facility remains the most developed proposal for providing additional resources in the region of the required $50 billion estimated for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The Government are prepared to consider all proposals for raising international finance for development, but there would be significant technical problems with a tax of this sort and it is not being actively considered at the present time.

Tuition Fees

Peter Law: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide the resources necessary to avoid the introduction of variable tuition fees in Wales to the Welsh Assembly Government. [4693]

Mr. Des Browne: In devolved areas of policy it is for the Welsh Assembly Government to decide their policies and priorities within their overall budget.

VAT

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations in the European Union for reduced VAT for contraceptives. [4731]

Dawn Primarolo: Under European VAT agreements, member states may apply a reduced VAT rate for products used for contraception.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations in the European Union for reduced VAT for energy efficient buildings. [4730]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are negotiating with their EU partners to achieve a reduced rate for energy-saving materials for DIY installation. Any changes to the list of permitted reduced rates require the agreement of all member states.

To encourage investment in domestic energy efficiency, the Government have introduced a broad range of measures, including reduced rates for the installation of micro-renewable energy, energy saving materials, micro-combined heat and power and air source heat pumps.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations in the European Union for reduced VAT for places of worship. [4729]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are negotiating with their EU partners to achieve a reduced rate of VAT for repairs to listed places of worship. Any changes to the list of permitted reduced rates require the agreement of all member states.

The Chancellor announced in March 2001 that a grant scheme would be put in place to refund the difference between the standard rate of VAT and a reduced rate. This was extended to cover the full amount of VAT from 1 April 2004. The scheme is due to continue until March 2008, unless a reduced rate is achieved earlier.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Consultation

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he will take to increase consultation with Parliament. [3341]

Mr. Hoon: It is a function of the Leader of the House to ensure that the views of the House are communicated to Government. In addition to passing on matters raised at Business Questions, I am willing to meet with hon. Members from all parts of the House to discuss matters which concern them.

Standing Orders

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House if he will make it Government policy to support a change in the operation of Standing Order No. 13 in order to extend the ability of hon. Members to make representations to the Speaker for the earlier meeting of the House in certain circumstances. [3411]

Mr. Hoon: The Government see no need for a change in the operation of Standing Order No. 13. The Government have recalled Parliament whenever major developments have required it: six times since 1997. The Government would be resistant to any change which increased the pressure on the Speaker or politicised his role, or which led to recalls in circumstances which did not merit it.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Security Incident Trial

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Solicitor-General what the cost was of the trial of the individuals who broke into the House of Commons Chamber in September 2004. [2720]

The Solicitor-General: I am advised that the Prosecution costs were approximately £2,800. Costs orders were made against each of the defendants in the sum of £350 each.

Witness expenses were in the sum of £83. No claim was made to the court for witness expenses because the prosecutor had not been told of the figure at the time of sentencing.

I will write to my right hon. Friend with a more detailed breakdown on costs.

Violence (Sport)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Solicitor-General whether future guidelines issued by the Crown Prosecution Service to police forces in relation to violence carried out on the sporting field will extend to Northern Ireland. [3471]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is responsible for the review and, where appropriate, the prosecution of criminal offences in England and Wales.

In the past, the CPS has issued general guidance on various topics (such as prosecuting racist crime, offences against the person), which can apply to violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour both on and off the sports field. The CPS is currently considering whether further guidance should be issued which specifically relates to criminal conduct on the playing field. However, as the CPS has no jurisdiction over criminal prosecutions in Northern Ireland, any further guidance would not directly extend to them, unless it is specifically adopted by their Director of Public Prosecutions.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Live8

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions she had with *(a)* local residents, *(b)* amenity societies and *(c)* other interested parties in advance of consent being given for the Live8 concert to take place in Hyde Park; [3935]

(2) what discussions she had with the organisers of the Live8 concert in Hyde Park on ensuring that the cost of clearing up after the concert will be met by the organisers. [3936]

Mr. Lammy: The Royal Parks Agency discussed the concert with the local authority, Westminster city council; with the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens; with the local operational and safety planning group, which is chaired by Westminster city council and which includes representatives of the emergency and

rescue services, and with the Princes Trust, whose Party in the Park was already booked to take place that weekend.

The event organisers will arrange for the concert site to be cleared during and after the concert. However, as part of Government-wide support for tackling the problems affecting Africa, the Royal Parks Agency will not be charging the organisers for clearing up Hyde Park after this genuinely one-off event. My Department expects to bear those costs arising from Live8 which the Royal Parks are unable to absorb within their existing budgets.

London Olympic Bid

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what resources from public funds she is making available to run the office of the 2012 Olympic Bid Committee. [4258]

Tessa Jowell: Decisions regarding the running costs of the Bid company London 2012 Ltd. are made by the company itself and the Government have not made separate funding available for this. The Government have made up to £20 million of public funds available to London 2012: £10 million from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; and £10 million from the London Development Agency. In addition, London 2012 has raised in excess of £8 million in private finance.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the aggregate public expenditure to date has been on the London 2012 Olympic bid. [4703]

Tessa Jowell: Public funding for London's bid for the 2012 Olympic Games consists of £20 million for the commercial company London 2012 and a further £10 million for bid-related supporting activities. To date, London 2012 has drawn down £17 million and £7.1 million of the bid support budget has been spent, giving a total spend of £24.1 million.

Lottery-funded Projects (Nottingham)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the projects funded by the Lottery in Nottingham, North in the 2005–06 financial year. [3924]

Mr. Caborn: Awards made in Nottingham, North in this financial year to date (1 April 2005 to 10 June 2005) are shown in the following table:

Distributing body	*Recipient*	*Project*	*Award date*	*Award amount (£)*
Awards for All (England) Joint Scheme	Beacon FE	The organisation was recently set up to provide equipment and facility hire for under 10s football.	4 April 2005	2,373
Awards for All (England) Joint Scheme	William Sharp School	This school will use the award to set up and run an after-school dance club and centre of excellence for local primary schools. The award is for coaching fees, music resources, performance sessions, t-shirts and technical support.	10 May 2005	4,959
New Opportunities Fund	A veteran	A Second World War veteran from Nottingham has been awarded a grant towards travel costs for a veteran commemorative visit to Singapore and Thailand in November of this year. Funding has also been provided for a carer to travel with the veteran.	10 May 2005	2,100
New Opportunities Fund	A veteran	A Second World War veteran from Nottingham has been awarded a grant towards travel costs for a commemorative visit to France in May of this year. Funding has also been provided for a care to travel with the veteran.	10 May 1005	525
New Opportunities Fund	3 veterans	Three Second World War veterans from Nottinghamshire have been awarded a grant towards travel costs for a commemorative visit to Malta in September of this year. Funding has also been provided for two spouses to travel with the veterans.	18 May 2005	2,250

There will have been awards made this financial year by Lottery Distributors that have yet to be recorded, due to a degree of lag in the reporting process.

The information is freely available from the Department's searchable Lottery award database at www.lottery.culture.gsi.gov.uk, which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Business Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons transitional relief for the 2005 business rates revaluation in England is not subsidised by central Government. [4311]

Mr. Woolas: The Government see no reason why a transitional scheme for business should be subsidised by the general taxpayer. The Local Government Act 2003 made transition a permanent feature of non-domestic rates revaluations and required such schemes to be self-financing. Transition schemes from 2005 will therefore be funded by other non-domestic ratepayers.

Capital Spending (Housing)

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what the total capital spending allocation was for housing between 1997 and 2004; and if he will break down the payments by scheme; [4188]

(2) what payments have been made by the Government as investment in affordable housing in England, broken down by scheme in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [4189]

Yvette Cooper: Government's capital investment in housing in England exceeded £4.7 billion in 2004–05, an increase of almost £2.9 billion over 1997–98 levels.

Table 1 shows how this total investment in England was split between the main housing programmes.

Table 1

	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	£ million 2004–05
Supported borrowing for local authorities[1,2]	617	955	1,022	1,819	684	785	837	795
Major Repairs Allowance[1]	—	—	—	—	1,587	1,529	1,459	1,406
Cash Incentive Scheme[1,3]	53	31	2	—	—	—	—	—
Estate Action	173	96	57	69	39	14	5	3
Housing Action Trusts[4]	66	53	45	71	68	75	60	45
Private sector renewal	192	166	165	0	21	8	8	5
Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	197
Disabled Facilities Grants	66	64	66	77	88	95	112	106
Arms Length Management Organisations	—	—	—	—	—	56	322	575
Affordable Housing via Housing Corporation's programmes	727	732	816	830	823	1,030	1,805	1,636
Total	1,894	2,097	2,173	2,866	3,310	3,592	4,656	4,768

[1] Two changes were made to funding arrangements from 2000–01 as part of wider initiatives to:
reduce ring fencing of funds to provide local authorities with more flexibility on use of resources in the light of local needs and priorities (the resources which had previously been allocated specifically for private sector renewal grants and Cash Incentive Scheme grants were include in the general funding provided for housing with only transitional payments occurring in later years); and
move to a basis of resource accounting for government accounts in 2001–02 (a separate funding stream—the Major Repairs Allowance—was established to cover the costs of maintaining council housing in its existing condition (as a proxy for depreciation).
[2] In each of 2002–03 and 2003–04 about £40 million was topsliced for an overall cross service performance reward pot supporting asset management.
[3] Funding to help existing council tenants purchase a home of their own thereby freeing up a home for a household in need.
[4] Some, but not all, of the investment within HATs will deliver housing outputs.
[5] In addition to this £48 million, £21 million from the Capital Modernisation Fund was spent in the Market Renewal pathfinder areas.

In addition, Government sponsor other capital programmes which support the housing agenda by levering in private sector investment on housing or supporting infrastructure development. For example, since 1998 we have allocated credits in Housing PFI totalling £259 million between 1998–99 to 2004–05 in schemes that have been signed.

Affordable housing

A significant proportion of the total expenditure between 1997–98 and 2004–05 supported provision of affordable housing—table 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the affordable housing programme.

Table 2

	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Approved Development Programme	667	603	635	727	799	925	1,590	1,600
Safer Communities Supported Housing Fund	0	0	0	0	9	27	27	11
Starter Home Initiative	0	0	0	0	2	67	172	7
Other	60	129	180	103	13	11	16	18
Total	727	732	816	830	823	1,030	1,805	1,636

This table represents the investment the Government have made via the Housing Corporation to registered social landlords for the provision and repair of affordable housing for both rent and low cost homeownership.

Council Tax

John Hemming: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total council tax take was for 2004–05; and how much council tax was raised from second homes. [3733]

Mr. Woolas: The amount local authorities in England budgeted they needed to raise through council tax in 2004–05 was £20,299 million.

It is estimated that approximately £230 million was raised by local authorities from charging council tax on second homes in 2004–05.

Deputy Prime Minister (Properties)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the addresses of the properties provided by the Government for the use of the Deputy Prime Minister. [4374]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 20 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 1037W.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Gregory Barker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what assessment he has made of the number of people eligible for the Disabled Facilities Grant who are deterred from applying because of the means testing of claims; [4161]

(2) when he expects the Disabled Facilities Grant Review Group to publish its report; [4162]

(3) if he will make a statement on the take-up of the Disabled Facilities Grant since the introduction of means-testing. [4163]

Yvette Cooper: The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) was first introduced in 1990 following the coming into force of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It has always been subject to a means test.

Detailed information on the number of people deterred from applying for DFG because of the operation of the means test is not collected centrally. However, the latest evaluation of the DFG system in

England carried out by PIEDA plc for the Department of Environment in 1996 showed that of 38,000 annual inquiries about the grant, 10 per cent. (3,800) drop out because their income would mean they received no grant, 2 per cent. (800) drop out because they cannot afford their assessed contribution towards the costs of the works and 1 per cent. (400) refuse to submit to a means test.

As part of the current review of the DFG system a team from Bristol University are looking at the operation of the DFG system including the means test. The review is continuing and Ministers will put forward any proposals for change later in the year.

Fire Service

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many attacks there have been on fire officers in each of the last five years, broken down by brigade; how many people have been successfully prosecuted for carrying out such attacks; how many prosecutions are ongoing; and if he will make a statement. [4159]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 114W.

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many chemical or fuel spills or leaks or suspected chemical or fuel spills or leaks were attended by the Fire Service in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [2066]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is not collected centrally on attending incidents specifically concerning chemical or fuel spills or leaks.

The figures provided are for attending spills and leaks of all substances including those that are radioactive or hazardous, for standing by at spills or leaks and for attending gas leaks.

The number of spills or leaks incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service for the last 10 years in England is set out as follows:

	Number of incidents
1994–95	11,261
1995–96	13,228
1996–97	12,865
1997–98	13,153
1998–99	12,864
1999–2000	12,160
2000–02	13,529
2001–02	14,140
2002–03	13,097
2003–04	11,189

Source:
ODPM annual returns

The figures available cover dealing with all types of spills and leaks, and additionally incidents where only standby action was required.

Since 1994–95, the number of incidents attended has varied from year to year, but there was a discernable peak in 2001–02 when 14,140 incidents were attended. This represented a 26 per cent. increase compared with 1994–95. The number of incidents attended has fallen in the last two years, and in the most recent year there was a fall of 15 per cent. in the incidents attended, and the number is now below the 1994–95 level.

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many incidents were attended by the Fire Service which required standby or precautionary action in a potentially hazardous situation in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [2067]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The figures provided are for attendance at a potentially hazardous situation, which includes, for example, 'standing by' while explosives are unloaded, or during an aircraft landing or an electrical power failure, but exclude standing by at spills or leaks which is included in the figures for attending spills or leaks.

The number of standby or precautionary action incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service in England is set out as follows:

	Number of incidents
1994–95	1,941
1995–96	2,024
1996–97	2,126
1997–98	2,003
1998–99	1,753
1999–2000	1,965
2000–02	1,867
2001–02	1,904
2002–03	1,751
2003–04	1,634

Source:
ODPM annual returns

The number of incidents attended increased by 10 per cent. between 1994–95 and 1996–97. Between 1996–97 and 2001–02, the pattern was variable with some years increasing and others showing a fall in the number of standby incidents. Since 2001–02, the number of incidents attended has fallen sharply, by 14 per cent., to 1,634 in 2003–04. The latest figure is 23 per cent. below the peak of 2,126 in 1996–97.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* fire engines, *(b)* firefighters and *(c)* fire stations there were in London in each of the last five years. [2527]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of fire engines, firefighters and fire stations in the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority for the last five years is set out as follows:

At 31 March:	*Fire engines*	*Whole-time firefighters*[1]	*Fire stations*
2000	185	5,639	112
2001	185	5,693	112
2002	185	5,913	112
2003	185	5,875	112
2004	185	5,986	112

[1] Full-time equivalent

Source:
ODPM annual returns

Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many persons are *(a)* registered homeless with and *(b)* on the housing waiting lists of (i) Maidstone district council, (ii) Milton Keynes council and (iii) Basingstoke and Deane council. [2458]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly and is in respect of households rather than persons. Information on the numbers on local authorities' Housing Registers is collected annually and is also in respect of households.

The number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need during 2004, and the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation as at 31 December 2004 as reported by each of these local authorities is tabled as follows. Also shown is the number of households on each authority's Housing Register as at 1 April 2004.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

Information is also collected, since 1998, on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also tabled.

	Accepted[1] as owed a main duty during 2004	*In temporary accommodation[2] on 31 December 2004*	*Households on the housing register as at 1 April 2004*	*Rough sleepers 2004[3] (Number of persons)*
Maidstone	264	149	1,254	0
Milton Keynes	852	1,467	2,951	0
Basingstoke and Deane	128	150	4,761	2

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.
[2] Households in accommodation either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting re-allocation of a settled home following acceptance. Excludes those households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.
[3] June 2004 estimates.
Source:
ODPM: Homelessness returns (quarterly) and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were registered as homeless in each London borough; and what the figures were per 1,000 population in the last year for which figures are available. [2546]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly and is in respect of households rather than persons. The number of households accepted by each London borough as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need during 2004, and expressed as a rate per 1,000 households, estimated to be living in the borough in 2003, is in the table.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

Information is also collected, since 1998, on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also presented in the following table.

Reported acceptances in 2004

	Mid-year household estimates (2003)	*Total households accepted[1]*	*Annual rate per 1,000 households*	*Rough sleepers 2004[2] (Number of persons)*
Barking and Dagenham	67	776	11.6	0
Barnet	135	814	6.0	0
Bexley	91	423	4.6	0
Brent	114	818	7.2	6
Bromley	129	718	5.6	0
Camden	99	1,386	14.0	5
City of London	4	33	8.3	22
Croydon	142	1,132	8.0	0
Ealing	130	800	6.2	4
Enfield	116	1,002	8.6	0
Greenwich	96	1,310	13.6	0
Hackney	92	1,202	13.1	8
Hammersmith and Fulham	86	650	7.6	3
Haringey	101	1,175	11.6	4
Harrow	86	109	1.3	0

Reported acceptances in 2004

	Mid-year household estimates (2003)	*Total households accepted*[1]	*Annual rate per 1,000 households*	*Rough sleepers 2004*[2] *(Number of persons)*
Havering	93	256	2.8	0
Hillingdon	102	494	4.8	0
Hounslow	89	895	10.1	0
Islington	85	[3]—	[3]—	1
Kensington and Chelsea	91	582	6.4	10
Kingston upon Thames	64	[3]—	[3]—	0
Lambeth	130	1,544	11.9	12
Lewisham	112	1,338	11.9	0
Merton	84	257	3.1	0
Newham	98	[3]—	[3]—	3
Redbridge	99	724	7.3	0
Richmond upon Thames	81	288	3.6	0
Southwark	117	1,747	14.9	6
Sutton	77	283	3.7	0
Tower Hamlets	90	1,378	15.3	5
Waltham Forest	96	869	9.1	1
Wandsworth	130	905	7.0	0
Westminster	111	1,189	10.7	175

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty. January to December 2004, unless stated.
[2] June estimates
[3] Denotes that data for one or more quarters during the year was not provided.
Sources:
ODPM: Homelessness returns (quarterly); and
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual)

Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of the Local Government Pension Scheme is invested in UK equities. [4305]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Individual Local Government Pension Scheme pension fund authorities can provide specific figures for their funds.

Planning Applications (Covenants)

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if the Government will introduce legislation ensuring that planning authorities are bound by covenants on land for which a planning application has been submitted; [3922]

(2) what statutory obligations there are on local authority planning departments to ensure that they do not grant planning requests if such requests are in breach of existing covenants. [3923]

Yvette Cooper: Restrictive covenants protect private rights and benefits of the owners or occupiers of the land specified in them. Covenants are privately negotiated and agreed. If a covenant is breached, it would be for those affected to see if enforcement would be possible; through the courts, if necessary.

Private rights are quite separate from planning considerations. Planning decisions are taken in the broader public interest, in the light of policies in development plan documents and of any other factor relevant to land-use planning. There is public involvement when plan documents are put forward for adoption, or planning applications made. Accordingly, the existence of a restrictive covenant should not be the basis of a decision about a planning application or appeal.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people have participated in a shared ownership scheme in each year since 1990. [1102]

Yvette Cooper: Figures on the number of people or households participating in a shared ownership scheme are not available.

Toyota Prius

Peter Viggers: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he was offered the free use of a Toyota Prius motor car; and what his response was. [4710]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister has not been offered the free use of a Toyota Prius motor car.

My right hon. Friend is provided with an official car and driver from the Government Car Service in accordance with the rules set out in the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Wardens

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish figures for the central Government funding of neighbourhood warden schemes in each year since their commencement. [4268]

Mr. Woolas: Funding for neighbourhood warden schemes from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is shown in the following table.

	£ million
2000–01	4.5
2001–02	5
2002–03	4.5
2003–04	5
Total	19

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government has to provide central funding for *(a)* community wardens and *(b)* neighbourhood wardens after March 2006. [1101]

Mr. Woolas: There are no current plans to centrally fund either community wardens or neighbourhood wardens after March 2006.

It was the Government policy to pilot fund warden schemes for a limited period as was announced to test the concept.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is in contact with local authorities to analyse progress towards the mainstreaming of funding. In fact 83 per cent. of first round schemes and 84 per cent. of second round schemes secured future funding after the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister financial support ceased.

CABINET OFFICE

Faith Awareness Training

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3813]

Mr. Hutton: The Cabinet Office does not have a separate departmental faith awareness training programme.

Information about faith awareness is provided for all staff via the departmental intranet. Diversity and equality issues are also covered in the Department's selection and management development programmes.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent consultations have been carried out by his Department with representatives of faith communities; and if he will make a statement. [3890]

Mr. Hutton: The Cabinet Office has not recently undertaken formal consultations that have required specific consultation with representatives of faith communities.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Businesses (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many businesses have ceased trading in *(a)* Brent, East and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [2536]

Alun Michael: DTI figures based solely on VAT de-registrations for the Brent, East parliamentary constituency area and all the London borough areas are shown as follows for 1997 to 2003. Data for 2004 will be available in autumn 2005.

VAT de-registrations	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Brent East parliamentary constituency	255	340	315	415	315	345	340
Outer London							
Barking and Dagenham	255	380	260	235	255	265	260
Barnet	1,495	2,015	2,015	1,980	2,175	2,230	2,355
Bexley	485	490	430	500	490	490	530
Brent	820	885	940	1,040	1,030	1,030	1,070
Bromley	810	775	830	815	800	925	1,015
Croydon	1,000	1,055	1,100	1,060	1,020	1,140	1,110
Ealing	900	845	835	935	990	1,045	1,070
Enfield	605	585	680	700	735	805	780
Greenwich	380	390	410	425	375	415	465
Harrow	710	775	845	890	880	940	960
Havering	575	570	550	585	535	630	615
Hillingdon	715	670	685	755	730	790	845
Hounslow	595	575	580	670	625	800	740
Kingston upon Thames	425	430	415	520	545	605	650
Merton	470	520	580	595	630	660	690
Redbridge	680	660	680	705	810	815	805
Richmond upon Thames	650	635	665	755	700	920	940
Sutton	465	450	440	520	480	505	585
Waltham Forest	580	495	585	600	595	620	600
Inner London							
City of London	705	745	860	1,055	1,130	1,090	1,040
Camden	2,240	2,980	2,625	2,525	2,530	2,720	2,320
Hackney	725	695	770	790	785	890	900
Hammersmith and Fulham	615	600	635	765	820	1,005	1,005
Haringey	665	725	745	770	795	795	830
Islington	940	1,240	1,465	1,430	1,280	1,425	1,505
Kensington and Chelsea	795	825	885	955	830	930	1,030
Lambeth	615	640	650	670	655	685	765
Lewisham	470	440	485	475	465	520	555
Newham	445	440	430	420	445	455	495
Southwark	685	700	695	745	735	790	915
Tower Hamlets	710	695	680	810	800	800	885
Wandsworth	770	760	825	920	920	1,000	1,035
Westminster	3,150	3,620	3,970	4,290	4,170	4,475	5,190
London total	26,155	28,310	29,245	30,900	30,760	33,215	34,565

Source:
VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994–2003, Small Business Service, available from http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats

VAT de-registrations do not give a complete picture of business closures. Businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. For example, they might continue to trade but at a turnover level below the VAT threshold. Only 1.8 million out of 4 million enterprises were registered for VAT at the start of 2003.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the average income was of a small business in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [2517]

Alun Michael: Data on the average profit or gross value added of all small businesses are not available. Turnover gives an alternative indication of the income of a business; it corresponds to the market sales of goods and services, excluding VAT. Figures on the average turnover of small businesses are only available at the national and regional level. They are not available for Brent, East or any London borough separately.

The average turnover of a small business (defined as a business with zero to 49 employees) in the UK in each year since 1997 is as follows:

In UK at the start of:	*Average turnover[1]/£1,000:*
1997	193
1998	202
1999	201
2000	205
2001	206
2002	216
2003	215

[1] Excludes turnover in financial intermediation.

The average turnover of a small business based in London in each year since 1997 is as follows:

Based in London at the start of:	*Average turnover[1]/£1,000:*
1997	354
1998	330
1999	282
2000	[2]
2001	276
2002	[2]
2003	312

[1] Excludes turnover in financial intermediation.
[2] London figures for 2000 and 2002 are not available.
Source:
Small Business Service Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Statistics, www.sbs.gov.uk/smes

The average turnover of a small business in the UK at the start of 2004 will be available in August 2005.

Community Interest Companies

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the likely level of use that will be made of the new community interest companies in the management of voluntary organisations in England. [3711]

Alun Michael: As stated in the Regulatory Impact Assessment prepared for the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004, take-up of community interest companies is hard to estimate given the lack of overall data on start-ups in the social enterprise sector. We expect that the community interest companies will be used initially mainly by new enterprises, rather than existing organisations which are already operating through an existing legal form. Our working assumption is that initially there may be between 100 and 300 new community interest companies registering each year. This figure was considered low by some of those who responded to consultation, but they did not produce any evidence on which to base a different forecast of initial take-up. The management of voluntary organisations seems to me to be a quite separate issue.

Export Control Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for the Export Arms Sales Unit; and if he will make a statement. [4066]

Malcolm Wicks: The Export Control Organisation is currently considering how best it can continue to deliver high quality export licensing services to industry and contribute to the Government's counter-proliferation effort. No decisions have been taken.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff were employed in the Export Arms Sales Unit at the end of March in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; and how many are planned for (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [4067]

Malcolm Wicks: The Export Control Organisation (ECO) had 146 staff in post at end March 2003,158 staff at end March 2004, and 143 staff at end March 2005. There is an overall target for an ECO headcount of 109 by 1 April 2006.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the trades unions over the future of the Export Arms Sales Unit. [4068]

Malcolm Wicks: I am in the process of arranging such discussions.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations the Government have received from other governments regarding his Department's consideration of private sector involvement in delivering some of the Export Control Organisation's services. [3168]

Malcolm Wicks: None.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff were employed by the Export Control Organisation in each of the last five years. [2334]

Malcolm Wicks: The Export Control Organisation (ECO) had an average of staff:

	Staff
2000–01	143
2001–02	142
2002–03	146
2003–04	156
2004–05	142

MG Rover

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if the Government will publish in full the findings of the Financial Reporting Council into the finances of MG-Rover; and when the Council is expected to report. [1278]

Ian Pearson: My then right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 31 May the appointment of inspectors to investigate and report on the affairs of MG Rover Group, including Phoenix Venture Holdings Ltd. and MGR Capital Ltd. It is intended that the inspectors will do their work as quickly as possible and their report will be published.

The Financial Reporting Review Panel have not published their report and the Government have been advised that to do so would be prejudicial to those potentially affected by it and to the regulatory process.

THORP Plant

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what period of time elapsed between instruments at the Thorp plant indicating that a leak of radioactive material was occurring and the decision being taken to close the facility. [3277]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd. suspended operations at THORP as soon as it became clear to them that a leak was occurring. However the results of BNGSL's investigation suggests that the pipe may have started to fail in August 2004 and that complete failure of the pipe may have occurred in mid January 2005. Opportunities such as cell sampling and level measurements were missed which would have shown that material was escaping to secondary containment.

A British Nuclear Group investigation has made recommendations to improve the maintenance, testing and reliability of cell instrumentation and other systems that give indications of plant abnormality. A separate independent investigation by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is considering both technical issues and broader safety culture and management of nuclear safety issues, and this will provide the basis for any subsequent enforcement actions.

Unsolicited Telephone Calls

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action the Government have taken to ensure that owners of mobile phones do not receive unsolicited calls from firms selling goods. [4226]

Alun Michael: The Department introduced the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations in 1999, which provides a scheme called the Telephone Preference Service scheme. This provides protection to mobile phone subscribers from receiving unsolicited calls from firms selling goods. The Information Commissioner's Office has responsibility for the enforcement of the TPS scheme.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Levy

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will introduce a levy on all UK outbound flights to pay for protection arrangements for air travellers; [4588]

(2) if he will make it his policy to replace ATOL bonding with a simple levy on outbound UK air passengers to pay for consumer protection of air travellers. [4590]

Ms Buck: The Department is considering the Civil Aviation Authority's economic analysis and assessment of the likely regulatory impact of a range of options for the future financial protection of air travellers.

Aircraft Insurance Costs

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the European Commission about the effect of regulations on the levels of insurance premiums relating to vintage aircraft, with particular reference to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. [3274]

Ms Buck: On 2 June the Department attended a meeting of the European Commission's Ad-Hoc Group on aviation insurance and expressed concern at the effect of Regulation 785/2004 on the cost of vintage aircraft insurance. The chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority has also written to the Commission on the same issue.

Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average mileage of a car was in the UK for each year since 1985. [4475]

Dr. Ladyman: Data from the National Travel Survey is shown in the table. Data from 1990 to 2002 are presented on a three-year rolling average basis.

Average annual car mileage

	Miles
1985–86	8,880
1990	9,600
1991	9,570
1992	9,490
1993	9,540
1994	9,550
1995	9,510
1996	9,370
1997	9,280
1998	9,200
1999	9,270
2000	9,100
2001	9,040
2002	8,960

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars have ceased to be licensed in each year since 1985. [4476]

Dr. Ladyman: The estimated number of cars that have ceased to be licensed during each year is as follows:

	Number of cars (million)
1985	1.39
1986	1.30
1987	1.52
1988	1.15
1989	1.44
1990	1.48
1991	1.57
1992	1.40
1993	1.47
1994	1.48
1995	1.78
1996	1.21
1997	1.56
1998	1.76
1999	1.53
2000	1.87
2001	1.85
2002	2.03
2003	2.18
2004	1.81

Motorway Fencing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria he uses to determine whether a particular stretch of motorway should have fencing installed alongside the carriageway; how many miles of motorway in England and Wales have met such criteria; and how many miles of fencing have been erected to date. [3743]

Dr. Ladyman: The Secretary of State for Transport is responsible for the strategic road network, comprising motorways and high-speed all-purpose trunk roads, in England. The National Assembly for Wales is responsible for roads in Wales.

Fencing designed to control the spread of traffic noise is often provided on the strategic road network to mitigate the effects of increased traffic noise arising from both newly constructed and substantially improved strategic roads. The need for these is considered as part of the assessment of the overall impact of the scheme on the surrounding environment. There are no specific criteria, but a judgment is made about their cost-effectiveness, taking into consideration the sensitivity of the area and the number of people affected, compared with the alternative of providing statutory insulation of residential properties meeting the criteria specified in the Noise Insulation Regulations 1975.

In addition, this type of fencing has been provided at a number of locations meeting sift criteria announced on 22 March 1999 in conjunction with a £5 million annual ring-fenced budget.

To date, various lengths of fencing have been provided to protect groups of properties within 26 locations on the strategic road network that qualified for consideration under the sift criteria identified in the announcement. A further four locations will have barriers provided this year. Information on the exact lengths of fencing that have been provided at these locations is not held centrally.

Oil Tankers

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the policy of the Government is on the transport of crude oil in single hull tankers in the area of the Solent. [4373]

Dr. Ladyman: Single hull tankers carrying heavy grade oils, including the heavier grades of crude oil (high density or high viscosity), are not allowed to enter or leave a port or offshore terminal or anchor in an area under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.

International agreements still allow the lighter grades of crude oil to be carried in single hull tankers. By 2006, these tankers will have been constructed with some form of protection against collision or grounding. These tankers will no longer be allowed to enter or leave a port or offshore terminal or anchor in an area under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom in 2010, unless they are modified to comply with the double hull construction requirements of the IMO MARPOL Annex I regulations.

Pedicabs/Rickshaws

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the numbers of pedicabs and rickshaws operating on a commercial basis. [3182]

Ms Buck: None, though I understand Transport for London estimate that there are about 200 pedicabs in operation in London.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the numbers of passengers using pedicabs and rickshaws in a year. [3183]

Ms Buck: This information is not available. It is not collected by the Department and to do so would involve disproportionate cost in relation to the small numbers of passengers carried.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what tests he has commissioned to assess the structural safety of pedicabs and rickshaws; when those tests were undertaken; and what the results were. [3184]

Ms Buck: The Department has not commissioned any tests of pedicabs or rickshaws.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce minimum standards of structural safety for pedicabs and rickshaws. [3185]

Ms Buck: Pedicabs and pedal rickshaws are three-wheeled pedal cycles and thus fall under the requirements of the Pedal Cycles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1983 and the road Vehicles Lighting

Regulations 1989 as amended. They are also subject to the EC Directive on General Product Safety. There are no plans to introduce new minimum standards of structural safety for pedicabs or rickshaws.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what standards relating to vehicle construction and maintenance apply to *(a)* pedicabs and rickshaws plying for hire and *(b)* licensed taxis. [3186]

Ms Buck: Pedicabs and pedal rickshaws are three-wheeled pedal cycles and therefore fall under the Pedal Cycles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1983. Lighting requirements are prescribed in the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 as amended. The vehicles are also subject to the EC Directive on General Product Safety.

Licensed taxis, like other powered road vehicles, must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 as amended and the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 as amended. In addition, new cars, including taxis, must have European Whole Vehicle Type Approval.

Local licensing authorities determine suitable construction standards for licensed taxis, beyond statutory roadworthiness requirements. In London, Transport for London's Conditions of Fitness essentially define the London-style cab. Elsewhere each authority formulates its own policy. Outside London a pedicab or pedal rickshaw can be licensed as a hackney carriage (taxi) under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847. In London they are not currently licensed.

The testing of licensed taxis is also for licensing authorities, who have powers to monitor vehicles' continued suitability during the currency of a licence, by spot checks or formal testing.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what training is required of riders of pedicabs and rickshaws plying for hire. [3187]

Ms Buck: In England and Wales, outside London, if pedicabs or rickshaws are licensed as hackney carriages by the relevant local authority then any training requirements for drivers would be a matter for that local authority.

Inside London, pedicabs are not currently subject to licensing controls and there are no mandatory requirements for training, though I understand some pedicab operators provide training to their drivers.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what injuries have occurred to passengers in pedicabs and rickshaws in the last 12 months. [3190]

Ms Buck: The information requested is not available. Information regarding accidents involving pedicabs or rickshaws are not separately identified in the Department's road accident collection system. Pedicabs or rickshaws are included in other vehicles whose body type is categorised as "pedal cycle".

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what insurance must be obtained by the riders or owners of pedicabs and rickshaws plying for hire. [3205]

Ms Buck: In England and Wales, outside London, if pedicabs are licensed as hackney carriages by the relevant local authority then any insurance requirements would be a matter for that local authority in the context of its licensing regime.

Inside London, pedicabs are not subject to licensing controls and there is no statutory requirement for riders or owners to have insurance.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received in the last 12 months about the activities of riders and operators of pedicabs and rickshaws. [3206]

Ms Buck: We have received two letters making representations on this matter in the last year.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with Transport for London about the activities of riders and operators of pedicabs and rickshaws in the last 12 months. [3207]

Ms Buck: The Department's Ministers or officials have had no meetings with Transport for London specifically on these matters in the last 12 months.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will convene a meeting of representatives of Transport for London, the police, affected local authorities and other relevant parties to discuss the activities of riders and operators of pedicabs and rickshaws. [3208]

Ms Buck: There are no current plans to call such a meeting, but this is being kept under review.

Rail Passengers Council

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which newspapers advertisements were placed for recruitment of members of the Rail Passengers Council. [3927]

Derek Twigg: Advertisements for the 12 member appointments that the Secretary of State has recently made to the Rail Passengers Council were placed in *The Sunday Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Western Mail*, *The Glasgow Herald* and *The Scotsman*.

Road Accidents

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many personal injury accidents there have been on the roads in each Government Office Region in each year since 1990; how many involved serious injuries; and how many *(a)* people in total and *(b)* children died. [3732]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Road Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the annual movement of freight by road, in billion tonne kilometres, for each year from 1997 to date. [4563]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* Information is as follows.

Freight transport by road in Great Britain[1]

	Billion tonne kilometres
1997	157
1998	160
1999	157
2000	158
2001	157
2002	157
2003	159

[1] Figures are for freight moved within Great Britain by UK registered goods vehicles, including those up to 3.5 tonnes gross weight.
Source:
Table 4.1 Transport Statistics Great Britain

Speed Cameras

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed safety cameras there have been in Tamworth in each year since 1997. [3328]

Dr. Ladyman: The information broken down as requested is not held centrally by the Department. The Staffordshire Safety Camera Partnership publishes details of the number of safety camera sites, by local authority area, available through its website, www.staffordshire.gov.uk/cameralifesavers.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras were installed in each Government Office Region in each year since 1990. [3745]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department only holds the requested information at Safety Camera Partnership level. I refer to my answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 617–19W. Further detailed information is available from partnerships.

Traffic Volume

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average 24 hour traffic volume has been in each month since January at the *(a)* Norton Canes to A34 Great Wyrley, *(b)* Shenstone to Chasetown and *(c)* Wishaw to A38 automatic traffic counters on the M6 toll road on (i) Mondays to Fridays, (ii) Saturdays and (iii) Sundays. [2299]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not held by the Department for Transport. The M6 Toll road is operated by Midlands Expressway Ltd. Further information may be available on their website (m6toll.co.uk).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what standards for animal welfare will apply to agri-environmental schemes under the England Rural Development Programme from 2007–08; and what discretion she has to seek derogations from EU standards. [2676]

Jim Knight: Negotiations on the draft Rural Development Regulation are expected to reach a conclusion at the Agriculture Council on 20–22 June. We expect that an animal welfare measure will—as now—be among the options available to member states; although not as part of a combined agri-environment and animal welfare measure. Decisions on whether to make payments under this measure from 2007 are part of the process of designing a successor Rural Development Programme, and will be taken in the light of responses to a full consultation this autumn. There will be difficult choices to make about how best to allocate limited resources but we will bear in mind the importance of ensuring that legal animal welfare requirements are fully adhered to.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how she intends to use the UK's presidency of the European Union to improve animal welfare standards in the broiler industry. [3770]

Mr. Bradshaw: The EU has an important role to play in regard to farm animal welfare. The European Commission intend to introduce proposals for a Directive on the welfare of broiler chickens later this year which we plan to progress during the UK's presidency.

Badger Culling

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to receive the results of the validation of the survey in the badger culling trial areas. [4425]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISO) has analysed 2002–03 data and intends to present the 2004 data at its July 2005 meeting, after which we will need to decide on the value of the data.

Cormorants

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences to kill cormorants have been issued in each Government Office region under her Department's revised policy announced on 16 September 2004; and how many cormorants have been licensed to be killed in each region as a result of such licences. [2692]

Jim Knight: Up until 8 June 2005 the Department granted 325 licences. The minimum number of birds which have been licensed to be killed is 1,957 although actual numbers of birds killed is likely to be less. The data on licences per region is not currently available. National licensing statistics, along with the number of cormorant licences issued in each Government office region, will be published in the summer.

Departmental Union Representatives

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many trade union learning representatives there are in her Department. [3308]

Jim Knight: There are currently 15 union learning reps in Defra from both the Public and Commercial Services Union and Prospect but more are planned. Defra has worked with the unions to develop a Union Learning Reps agreement covering their role. Both Defra and Defra unions are committed to working in

partnership with each other to promote and support lifelong learning activities and opportunities inside and outside the workplace.

Foot and Mouth

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response she will make to the main findings of the cost-benefit study of foot and mouth disease control strategies, with particular reference to vaccination. [3871]

Mr. Bradshaw: The report indicates the overall size and cost of any future outbreaks are very likely to be less than in 2001 because there are now fewer movements of livestock, we have a movement stand still and there would be an immediate national movement ban and swift implementation of the revised contingency plan when foot and mouth disease (FMD) is first detected. It therefore supports the steps the Government have taken since 2001 to manage the risk of another outbreak.

Overall, the report suggests that vaccination reduces the size and extent of medium and large outbreaks—although at an additional financial cost in all but the largest outbreaks.

The basic disease control policy required under the new EU FMD Directive remains the slaughter of all susceptible animals on premises infected with FMD and those identified as "dangerous contacts". However, the Directive gives greater prominence to the potential use of emergency vaccination, as an additional control measure to culling.

The Government will consider emergency vaccination as a disease control option from the start of any outbreak of FMD; on the basis of vaccinate to live, wherever possible. This is in line with the recommendations of the main FMD Inquiries.

The Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) will help us gauge which disease control option we should use in which circumstance. It will also help us plan resources for an outbreak and generally improve our understanding of the costs of different disease control policies.

The CBA report does not, however, propose a unique single strategy for dealing with a future outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD).

The epidemiological and economic information the report provides, will be used to help determine the most appropriate control strategy or strategies to regain FMD-free status without routine vaccination under a range of defined circumstances, should the disease break out in the future.

Hazardous Waste

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions have been secured by the Environment Agency's for fly-tipping of hazardous waste since 16 July 2004. [3460]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been four such convictions since 16 July 2004. However, the Environment Agency follows the general principles set out in its Enforcement and Prosecutions Policy which means that preventive or remedial action is taken to protect the environment or to secure compliance with the regulatory system governing waste.

During July 2004 to April 2005 the agency dealt with 527 fly-tipping incidents involving asbestos or chemical drums/oil/fuel.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much hazardous waste was produced in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004; [3463]

(2) how many producers of hazardous waste there were in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [3464]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data derived from the Environment Agency special waste tracking system are as follows:

	Quantity of special waste produced (tonnes)	*Number of hazardous waste producers*
2000	5,196,000	117,420
2001	5,214,000	99,829
2002	5,058,000	91,194
2003	4,772,000	96,050
2004	[1]	87,749

[1] Available in August 2005

Nappies

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the life cycle assessment on disposable and reusable nappies recently published by the Environment Agency, with particular reference to *(a)* the reusable nappy product sample used and *(b)* the methodology used to collect the consumer data; and if she will make a statement. [3130]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government consider that the Environment Agency's LCA is a useful piece of work. It nevertheless considers that further work should be carried out to look at the environmental impacts of the main re-usables in current use. The survey forming the basis of the LCA was carried out in 2002–03 and showed that terry nappies were the main type of reusable nappy used. 2004 sales data suggest that pre-fold nappies have overtaken terries with more than 50 per cent. of sales. So the LCA needs to be reassessed reflecting the environmental impacts of recent increases in the proportion of other types of reusable nappies. The Environment Agency has been asked to commission this further work.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policies she has to reduce the number of disposable nappies going to landfill. [3132]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have tough targets to meet under the Landfill Directive to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill. The Government strategy to meet these targets includes measures to minimise the amount of waste. As part of this the Government are funding, through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a programme on reusable nappies.

The aim of the WRAP programme is to convert 155,000 households to re-usable nappies by April 2006, thereby diverting 35,000 tonnes per annum of disposable nappy waste from landfill.

The WRAP programme includes making information available to parents, health care professions and other points of contact for parents e.g. nurseries. WRAP is also working to raise the profile of existing nappy laundering businesses and supporting the development of others.

Primates

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to introduce a ban on the keeping of primates as pets. [4250]

Jim Knight: We are looking carefully at this issue, and plan to go out to public consultation by the end of July to seek views on how powers under Article 8.2 of European Council Regulation 338/97 should be used in relation to the holding of specimens of certain exotic animals subject to control under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), including primates.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3533]

Jim Knight: The Race Relations (Amendment) Act (RRA) 2000 places a general duty on Government Departments to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups.

In line with the specific duties imposed the Department published a Race Equality Scheme which set out how the Department planned to meet the duties imposed; including those relating to training; The Department is committed to ensuring that its staff are properly trained so that they can make equality and diversity core issues to their work, whatever their area of responsibility. Specialist equal opportunities training for those working in areas which impacted directly on people was provided to 262 staff in the last financial year. The grade and ethnicity breakdown is as follows:

	White	*Asian*	*Black*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total*
SCS	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
G6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
G7	19	2	0	0	1	8	30
SEO	6	0	0	0	0	4	10
HEO	33	2	2	0	0	11	48
EO	43	4	8	3	1	16	75
AO	47	7	6	0	0	17	77
AA	8	0	2	2	0	7	19
Total	157	15	18	5	3	64	262

Training on issues relating to race, and other key equality areas are incorporated into a range of learning opportunities, including comprehensive information and guidance on the Departments internal website. The Diversity and Equality Unit have provided a number of presentations to Business Units (over 100 staff) and have used these to facilitate discussions on a number of equality issues. These included work required within business units to address the duties arising from the RRA and other equality legislation e.g. the impending duties relating to disability.

Specific training on the duties arising from the RRA delivered through an external consultant were provided to staff working in areas identified in the Race Equality Scheme as relevant to the RRA. The seminars provided an overview of the responsibilities arising from the RRA as well as guidance on mainstreaming race equality in policy development and in service delivery. Feedback from recent workshops which was specifically targeted at senior managers is currently being evaluated. It will be used to inform the work under way to review the Race Equality Scheme and future strategies for providing staff with the required training. Details of staff attending specific Race Relations training is as follows:

	White	*Asian*	*Black*	*Mixed*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total*
SCS	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
G6	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
G7	28	0	0	1	0	4	12
SEO	29	0	0	0	0	1	30
HEO	63	0	3	1	1	1	69
EO	36	1	2	1	0	0	99
AO	18	0	5	0	0	2	25
AA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	186	1	10	3	1	8	247

Currently the Department is unable to monitor comprehensively attendance at all training events. The new Human Resource database which was introduced in July 2004 should enable such monitoring in the future. However the module that will provide this functionality has not yet been rolled out. Data are therefore only available for courses which were organised centrally. As a result we are unable to provide details of attendees at locally organised events which were arranged by Business Units to provide staff with training on the specific duties arising within their work area, although we are aware of a number of such events. This information should be available in the future.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of her Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3534]

Jim Knight: The Race Relations (Amendment Act) 2000 places the general duty on a large number of specified public authorities. The core Department's Race Equality Scheme covers the Departments two smallest Executive Agencies, the Pesticides Safety Directorate and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. The remaining Executive Agencies have produced Agency specific Schemes using the core Department's Scheme as a model. Annual progress reports are produced and the Schemes are discussed regularly as part of an ongoing review process.

In addition the Home Secretary has made Orders under the Act to place the 'specific duties' on named public authorities. These include a number of non-departmental public bodies for which Defra has responsibility in the following table. Although these Bodies are not required to produce a Race Equality Scheme they are expected to follow the lead of the core Department in addressing the general duties imposed. This list is updated periodically in consultation with the CRE and other Government departments and amended to take account of new Bodies and to delete defunct Bodies.

The Department's Race Equality Scheme is currently being reviewed and as part of this work we will be working closely with all bodies for which we have responsibility to ensure that due regard is taken of the duties imposed by the Act. The Commission for Racial Equality has reviewed the Race Equality Scheme and have commented favourably on a number of areas. Any areas highlighted as requiring additional action will be addressed as part of the current review of the Scheme.

	Original order	*Schedule 1A*	*General duty*	*Employment*	*Equality scheme*
Executive non-departmental public bodies					
NDPB					
(England and Wales) (AWB)	—	Yes	Yes	No	No
Agricultural Wages Committee (England) (AWC)	—	Yes	Yes	No	No
Apple and Pear Research Council (APRC)	—	No	No	No	No
British Potato Council (BPC)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Countryside Agency	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
English Nature (EN)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Environment Agency (EA)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Food for Britain (FFB)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Home-Grown Cereals Authority (HGCA)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Horticultural Development Council (HOC)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Horticultural Research Institute (HRI)	—	Non statutory	No	No	No
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	—	No	No	No	No
Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Milk Development Council (MDC)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
National Forest Company (MFC)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Regional Flood Defence Committees	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBG Kew)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sea Fish Industry Authority (SFIA)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
United Kingdom Register of Organic Food Standards (UKROFS)	—	Non statutory	No	No	No
Wine Standards Board of the Vinters' Company (WSB)	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Advisory NDPBs					
Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment (ACBE)	—	No	No	No	No
Advisory Committee on Consumer Products and the Environment (ACCPE)	—	No legal status	No	No	No
Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances (ACHS)	—	Yes	Yes	No	No
Advisory Committee on Packaging	—	No	No	No	No
Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP)	—	Yes	Yes	No	No
Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (of genetically modified organisms) (ACRE)	—	Yes	Yes	No	No
Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees (ADHACs)	—	Yes	Yes	No	No
Agricultural Waste Stakeholders' Forum	—				
Air Quality Expert Group (replaces the former Airborne Particles Expert Group)	—	No	No	No	No
Air Quality Forum	—	No	No	No	No

	Original order	Schedule 1A	General duty	Employment	Equality scheme
Committee of Investigation for Great Britain	—				
Committee on Agricultural Valuation	—	No	No	No	No
Committee on Products and Processes	—	No	No	No	No
Consumers' Committee for Great Britain under the Agricultural Marketing Act 1958	—	No	No	No	No
Darwin Advisory Committee (the Darwin Initiative)	—	No	No	No	No
Expert Group on Cryptosporidium in Water Supplies	—	No	No	No	No
Expert panel on Air Quality Standards	—	No	No	No	No
Expert panel on Sustainable Development Education	—	No	No	No	No
Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)	—	Non statutory			
Government/Industry Forum on Non-Food Use Crops	—	No	No	No	No
Hill Farming Advisory Committee for England, Wales and NI	—	No	No	No	No
Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB	—	No	No	No	No
Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council	—	Yes	Yes	No	No
National Expert Group on Transboundary Air Pollution	—	No	No	No	No
Pesticide Residues Committee	—	No	No	No	No
Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee	—	No	No	No	No
Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committees	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution	—	Yes	No	No	No
Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee	—	No	No	No	No
Sustainable Development Commission	—	No	No	No	No
Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC)	—	No	No	No	No
Veterinary Products Committee	—	No	No	No	No
Water Regulations Advisory Committee (WRAC)	—	No	No	No	No
Zoos Forum	—	No	NO	No	No
Public Corporations					
British Waterways	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Covent Garden Market Authority	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Tribunals and other bodies					
Agricultural Land Tribunals	—	All judicial bodies are exempt			
British Wool Marketing Board	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	no
Commons Commissioners		All judicial bodies are exempt			
Dairy Produce Quota Tribunal	—	—	—	—	—
Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal	—	All judicial bodies are exempt			
British Wool Marketing Board	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Chemicals Stakeholder Forum	—	No	No	No	No
Hazardous Waste Forum	—	No	No	No	No
National Parks and Boards Authorities	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	
National Rural Development Forum	—	No	No	No	No
Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime	—	No	No	No	No
Pesticides Forum	—	No	No	No	No
UK Biodiversity Group	—	No	No	No	No
Defra and its Agencies					
Defra	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
PSD	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Covered by Defra scheme
VMD	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Covered by Defra scheme
VLA	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
CSL	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
CEFAS	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
RPA	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	To be covered by Defra scheme from 2004

Recycling

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much plastic per person was recycled in *(a)* Brent, East and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [2542]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the amount of plastic per person collected for recycling by local authorities as reported to the Defra annual survey of Municipal Waste Management. These figures underestimate the total amount of plastics collected for recycling since some authorities collect an unknown amount of plastics for recycling as part of a mixed (co-mingled) collection of recyclables:

Plastics recycling

kg per capita	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barnet	—	—	—	—	[1]—	0.1	0.1
Bexley	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.2	0.4
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	—	[2]
Bromley	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.4	1.1
Camden	[1]—	[1]—	—	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ealing	[1]—	—	—	—	[1]—	0.3	0.5
Enfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.2
Greenwich	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haringey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Havering	—	—	—	0.1	1.0	—	—
Hillingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1
Hounslow	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Islington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	
Kingston upon Thames	—	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	—	5.2
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—	[1]—
Merton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newham	—	—	—	—	—	[1]—	—
Redbridge	—	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.4	—
Richmond upon Thames	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—
Southwark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sutton	0.3	0.3	1.2	0.6	0.4	—	—
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Represents less than 0.05kg per capita.

Note:

1. The results shown are for plastics only waste recycling collections—excludes unknown amount of material collected through co-mingled recyclable collections.
2. In addition to the figures a small proportion of plastics recycling is collected through London Waste Disposal Authority run Civic Amenity Sites. As this only amounts to approximately 0.1 per cent. of all plastic only recycling, an attempt to record and apportion this small tonnage has not been made.

Rubbish Collection

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost of collecting rubbish was, per household, in each English region in each year since 1997. [2422]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average expenditure on waste collection per household by region from 2000–01 to 2003–04 is shown in the following table. Comparable data prior to 2000–01 are not held centrally.

Average expenditure on waste collection per household by region from 2000–01 to 2003–04

£

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
North East	31.4	31.3	32.5	35.2
North West	27.4	28.4	30.5	34.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	30.7	31.9	33.9	39.0
East Midlands	30.8	32.6	33.9	38.3
West Midlands	29.6	31.9	34.3	41.1
East of England	30.1	31.1	33.5	37.5
London	36.1	38.9	40.3	46.5
South East	30.3	33.5	37.0	41.5
South West	29.6	32.6	33.1	36.2

Notes:

1. Regional averages have been calculated by dividing the sum of BV 86 data for each local authority by the number of authorities in each region.
2. Authorities that did not supply data for BV 86 have been excluded from the calculation of regional averages for that year.
3. Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) data from 2001–02 (including the data above) are available on the BVPI website at: http://www.bvpi.gov.uk/.

Source:

ODPM Best Value Performance Indicator data (BV 86)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* public tip and *(b)* large scale rubbish facilities there were on the last date for which figures are available; and how many there were in each year since 1997. [2423]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is currently being collated by the Environment Agency from a variety of sources. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Single Farm Payment Scheme

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans her Department has to reclassify motor sport under the 28-day rule of the Single Farm Payment scheme; [3391]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the viability of the future use of agricultural land for motor sports under Single Farm Payment rules. [3392]

Jim Knight: Land used in support of applications for payment under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) must be at applicants' disposal for the 10-month period nominated on their application forms. Under recently

updated guidance issued by the Department, motor sports may take place on up to 28 days during the nominated 10-month period, in addition to all of the remaining two months of the year. The updated guidance takes on board representations made by motor sports interests and, overall, we would expect the impact of the SPS on the availability of agricultural land used for such sports to be limited. There are no immediate plans to further update the guidance, but it will be reviewed for the 2006 scheme in the light of experience of this first year of operation of the SPS.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the regulatory restrictions governing the carrying out of motor sports on agricultural land are imposed under EU statutory requirements. [3393]

Jim Knight: For the purposes of the Single Payment Scheme, the relevant EU legislation is Council Regulation No. 1782/2003. Title II, Chapter 1 covers the requirements related to cross-compliance while Title III, Chapter 3, Section 1 covers the requirements related to eligibility of land.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons sugar beet is treated differently from potatoes in relation to authorised entitlements on land under the Single Farm Payments system. [2875]

Jim Knight: The EU rules for the 'flat-rate' model of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) adopted in England are designed to avoid any SPS related increase in production of fruit, vegetables and potatoes and so avoid disadvantaging growers of these crops in those parts of the EU which did not adopt the 'flat-rate' model. There is no need for similar rules in relation to sugar beet as quotas still limit production of that crop.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received concerning the impact of the eligibility rules for Single Farm Payment on off-road motor sport events; and if she will make a statement. [3735]

Jim Knight: The Department has issued guidance on the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and non-agricultural use of land which balances the need for diversification opportunities with the necessity to abide by EU rules on eligibility of land under the scheme. Following representations from a number of motor sports organisations and enthusiasts, that guidance has recently been updated. Motor sports are now placed in a category which allows for events to take place on up to 28 days during the 10-month period that farmers must declare, for SPS payment purposes, that they have the required amount of eligible land at their disposal. In addition, such events may take place on that land at any time during the remaining two months of the year. It remains the case that all claims for SPS payment are subject to observance of set cross-compliance conditions, which apply for the whole calendar year.

Trees

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of trees *(a)* had full crowns, *(b)* had slight defoliation, *(c)* had moderate defoliation, *(d)* had severe defoliation and *(e)* were dead in the most recent survey of tree health in Europe under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, broken down by country. [4440]

Jim Knight: The following table has been compiled by the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests—a body operating under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution.

Defoliation of all species by classes and class aggregates—2004

Participating countries	*Area surveyed (1,000 ha)*	*Number of sample trees*	*0 none*	*1 slight*	*2 moderate*	*3 severe*	*4 dead*
Albania	—	8,970	42.7	45.1	10.9	1.3	0.0
Andorra	17	72	16.7	47.2	25.0	8.3	2.8
Austria	3,481	3,582	51.4	35.4	10.4	2.6	0.2
Belarus	7,845	9,603	40.0	50.0	7.7	1.1	1.2
Belgium	691	2,966	38.2	42.4	16.5	2.6	0.3
Bulgaria	3,314	4,356	19.8	40.5	34.8	2.2	2.7
Croatia	2,061	2,082	35.3	39.5	22.8	2.3	0.1
Cyprus	138	360	22.5	65.3	12.2	0.0	0.0
Czech Republic	2,630	6,585	11.7	31.0	56.2	0.8	0.3
Denmark	468	576	64.9	23.3	8.7	2.6	0.5
Estonia	2,267	2,201	49.4	45.3	4.8	0.2	0.3
Finland	20,020	11,210	57.1	33.1	9.0	0.7	0.1
France	13,100	10,219	32.0	36.3	27.7	3.2	0.8
Germany	10,890	13,741	27.6	41.0	28.5	2.6	0.3
Greece	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—
Hungary	1,836	28,313	39.9	38.6	15.6	3.1	2.8
Ireland	399	403	56.8	25.8	15.9	1.5	0.0
Italy	8,675	7,111	20.5	43.6	31.4	4.1	0.4
Latvia	2,923	8,384	20.9	66.6	10.2	1.6	0.7
Liechtenstein	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—
Lithuania	2,069	6,243	10.7	75.4	11.4	1.6	0.9
Luxembourg	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—	'—
Rep. of Moldova	318	11,895	30.1	35.9	28.6	5.3	0.1
The Netherlands	210	232	52.2	20.3	23.7	2.5	1.3
Norway	12,000	8,191	43.3	36.0	17.7	2.8	0.2
Poland	6,968	25,520	8.3	57.1	32.5	1.7	0.4
Portugal	3,234	3,990	44.8	38.6	14.5	2.1	0.0

Defoliation of all species by classes and class aggregates—2004

Participating countries	*Area surveyed (1,000 ha)*	*Number of sample trees*	*0 none*	*1 slight*	*2 moderate*	*3 severe*	*4 dead*
Romania	6,244	100,041	62.5	25.8	10.3	0.8	0.6
Russian Fed.	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Serbia and Montenegro	1,868	3,031	58.3	27.4	13.4	0.9	0.0
Slovak Republic	1,961	4,216	11.3	62.0	25.7	0.8	0.2
Slovenia	1,099	1,008	30.5	40.2	24.2	4.4	0.7
Spain	11,588	14,880	24.0	61.0	11.9	1.1	2.0
Sweden	20,600	14,805	48.8	34.7	13.9	1.9	0.5
Switzerland	1,186	1,041	25.6	45.3	20.2	1.4	7.5
Turkey	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Ukraine	918	1,395	18.6	51.5	27.9	1.4	0.6
United Kingdom	2,156	8,328	24.2	49.3	24.7	1.1	0.7

[1] No survey in 2004.

Note:

1. Serbia and Montenegro: Serbia only.
2. Some differences in the level of damage across national borders may be at least partly due to differences in standards used. This restriction, however, does not affect the reliability of the trends over time.

Waste Management

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the European Commission and *(c)* the European Environment Agency uses for (i) biodegradable waste, (ii) municipal waste, (iii) commercial waste, (iv) hazardous waste, (v) industrial waste, (vi) recycling, (vii) recovery, (viii) composting and (ix) waste minimisation. [3465]

Mr. Bradshaw: Where terms are defined in European Community (EC) law, that definition is used by the Department, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency. EU directives, including their definitions, are binding on member states and their "competent authorities". The European Commission is responsible for ensuring the implementation of directives, assisted by the objective and comparable information provided by the European Environment Agency. In the case of terms for which a relevant definition is not provided by Community law, the Department uses national definitions. The following definitions are in use:

(i) "Biodegradable waste" is defined in Article 2*(m)* of the EC Landfill Directive (Council Directive 1999/31/EC) (LFD);

(ii) "Municipal waste" is defined in Article 2*(b)* of the LFD. Where the term is used in a context other than implementation of the LFD, the Department uses the appropriate national definition;

(iii) "Commercial waste" is a national term which is defined in section 75(7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, with refinement provided by regulation 6 of and Schedule 4 to the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992;

(iv) "Hazardous waste" is defined in Article 1(4) of the EC Hazardous Waste Directive (Council Directive 91/689/EEC);

(v) "Industrial waste" is a national term which is defined in section 75(6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, with refinement provided by regulation 5 of and Schedule 3 to the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992;

(vi) "Recycling" is a term which is used but is not defined in the EC Waste Framework Directive (Council Directive 75/442/EEC as amended) (WFD). While there is no common definition of "recycling" in Community law, there are definitions of "recycling" in the EC Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (Directive 94/62/EC as amended), the EC End of Life Vehicles Directive (Directive 2000/53/EC) (ELV) and the EC Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (Directive 2002/96/EC as amended) (WEEE). These definitions apply for the purposes of each of these directives;

(vii) "Recovery" is defined in Article 1*(f)* of the WFD by reference to Annex MB of that directive. For the purposes of the Packaging and Packaging Waste, ELV and WEEE directives, the definition of "recovery" is limited to the "applicable operations" in Annex MB to the WFD;

(viii) "Composting" is used but is not defined in the WFD. However, the list of recovery operations in Annex IIB to the WFD includes at R3 "Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (including composting and other biological transformation processes)"; and

(ix) "Waste minimisation" is not defined in either Community or national legislation.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency will publish its final report on the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill by mechanical biological treatment and other options. [3467]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency intends to publish its final guidance on sampling and testing for evaluating the performance of mechanical biological treatment plant in reducing the biodegradability of municipal waste in July 2005.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public money was spent on municipal waste management in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2002–03; and how many tonnes of municipal waste were recycled in (i) 2003–04 and (ii) 2002–03. [3468]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2002–03 4.6 million tonnes of municipal waste were recycled, rising to 5.5 million tonnes in 2003–04. The net revenue expenditure on municipal waste management is shown in the following table:

£

	2002–03	*2003–04*
Waste collection	752,143,000	865,098,000
Waste disposal	1,054,541,000	1,139,041,000
Total waste management	1,806,684,000	2,004,139,000

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total volume of *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* other waste was in each region in each year since 2001–02; what this represents per head of population; and what

proportion of each category of waste was (i) sent to landfill, (ii) incinerated and (iii) disposed of by other means in each year. [4439]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on domestic waste from the Management Survey for 2001–02, 2002–03 government region is shown below:

	Municipal waste—Tonnes (Thousand)	*Kilogrammes per head*	*Landfilled (Percentage)*	*Incinerated (Percentage)*	*Other (Percentage)*
2001–02					
North East	1,572	624	78	15	7
North West	4,183	620	86	2	11
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,013	606	85	4	12
East Midlands	2,409	576	78	6	15
West Midlands	2,985	565	57	32	12
East	2,999	555	80	1	18
London	4,438	607	73	19	8
South East	4,477	558	79	0	21
South West	2,830	573	81	0	19
England	28,905	585	78	8	14
2002–03					
North East	1,657	653	76	14	10
North West	4,344	640	83	3	14
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,001	601	79	7	14
East Midlands	2,449	580	78	6	17
West Midlands	3,046	574	54	32	14
East	3,012	555	79	1	20
London	4,446	603	71	20	9
South East	4,538	564	76	0	23
South West	2,901	584	78	0	22
England	29,394	592	75	9	16
2003–04					
North East	1,637	645	70	13	17
North West	4,380	644	80	3	18
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,931	585	75	8	16
East Midlands	2,445	575	73	6	21
West Midlands	3,031	570	53	31	17
East	2,944	539	75	1	24
London	4,342	588	70	19	11
South East	4,529	560	73	2	25
South West	2,865	573	76	0	24
England	29,105	584	72	9	19

Note:
Totals and percentages might not add up due to rounding.

The latest year for which full information on industrial and commercial waste is available is 1998–99, from the Environment Agency's National Waste Production Survey, Strategic Waste Management Information for England and Wales. Results can be found at: www.environment-agency.gov.uk. Results from the 2002–03 survey will be published shortly.

Information on construction, demolition and excavation waste is available from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister publication: Survey of Arisings and Use of Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste as Aggregate in England in 2003. Results for England for 2001 and 2003 are shown in the following table:

Construction, demolition and excavation—England

	2001		*2003*	
	Tonnes (Thousand)	*Percentage*	*Tonnes (Thousand)*	*Percentage*
Landfilled	23,210	26	29,060	32
Spread on registered exempt sites	[1]22,400	[1]25	16,430	18
Recycled	43,280	49	45,450	50
Total CDEW	[1]88,890		90,930	

[1] Stated to be an unadjusted estimate.

WORK AND PENSIONS

EU Legislation

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what EU legislation was implemented by *(a)* the Stakeholder Pension Schemes Regulation 2000, *(b)* the Occupational Pension Schemes (Minimum Funding Requirement and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 and *(c)* the Occupational Pension Schemes (Winding Up and Deficiency on Winding Up etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2004. [1713]

Mr. Plaskitt: None of the three pieces of legislation referred was introduced in order to achieve UK compliance with European Council Directives. They were all introduced to implement internal national policy initiated by the UK Government.

Local Housing Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much housing benefit has been paid in

each local housing allowance pilot area in each month in the last two years; and how many housing benefit claimants there have been. [924]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested because local authorities are only required to provide expenditure figures on an annual basis and 2004–05 figures will not be available until the end of this year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many different information technology systems are being used to process housing benefit in the local housing allowance pilot areas; and if he will make a statement. [950]

Mr. Plaskitt: Four software suppliers are involved in providing the software to the nine pathfinder local authorities. The information technology systems used to process housing benefits claims is for individual local authorities to decide.

Pension Credit

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances under pension credit legislation, pensioners will receive an award of £1.20 for each extra pound of qualifying income; what criteria were used in setting the amount; and whether those potentially entitled to the £1.20 award will be informed of this. [3122]

Mr. Timms: In very exceptional circumstances the effect of applying the normal formula will be that some pensioners will receive a reward of £1.20 instead of 60 pence for each extra pound of qualifying income. This may happen if the pension credit recipient is also receiving a working tax credit, spousal maintenance, or a social security benefit which does not count as rewardable income. It will only occur if their total income brought to account is greater than their appropriate guarantee level but the income which counts for the savings credit is less than the guarantee level. If this happens the pensioner will be able to ask the Pension Service for an explanation.

Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans the Government have to increase the state pension. [2957]

Mr. Timms: We will continue with our policy of increasing the basic state pension annually by 2.5 per cent. or the increase in the September Retail Prices Index whichever is higher.

DEFENCE

Acts of Parliament

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which his Department is responsible available online. [3715]

Mr. Touhig: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

Agency Staff

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of agency staff used to augment UK military units on operations in *(a)* 2000–01, *(b)* 2001–02, *(c)* 2002–03, *(d)* 2003–04 and *(e)* 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [3794]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* There are many contracts placed in operational theatres which entail the employment of personnel, the details of which are recorded in theatre.

This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Apache Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects his Department's requirement for fully trained pilots of Apache helicopters will be met. [2324]

Mr. Ingram: The first of three Apache Attack Regiments has been fully trained, tested and exercised and will shortly be available for operations following formal clearance as a result of successfully completing Exercise Eagles Strike on 24 May 2005. The conversion of the second regiment is under way and is due to be ready for operations by September 2007. The third regiment is programmed to convert from October 2007 and should be ready for operations by October 2009. At this stage it is envisaged that all three regiments will be manned with 42 Apache Attack Helicopter trained aircrew, which represents 87.5 per cent. of the final manning requirement. There will then follow a period where all three regiments will be brought up to full manning, which should be complete by September 2010. Thereafter, training will then focus on sustaining full manning throughout the rest of the aircraft operating life.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans *(a)* to marinise the fleet of Apache helicopters against salt corrosion and *(b)* to allow the aircraft to operate from Royal Navy vessels. [2328]

Mr. Ingram: A range of maritime modifications will be applied to the Apache AH Mk 1 fleet to enable it to operate from Royal Navy ships and Royal Fleet Auxiliary support vessels, including an enhanced corrosion protection scheme.

Armed Forces (Recruitment Rates)

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new entrants there have been to each of the armed forces in each quarter since 2002. [3973]

Mr. Touhig: The following table shows intake[1] from civilian life to UK Regular[2] Forces in each quarter since 2002.

[1] Figures show all intake to UK Regular Forces including re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.[2] UK Regular Forces includes nursing services and excludes full-time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reservists and Naval Activated Reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

Quarter ending	*Naval Service*[1]	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
2002			
31 March	1,390	4,520	880
30 June	1,210	2,930	870
30 September	1,270	5,760	1,180
31 December	1,130	2,560	1,100
2003			
31 March	1,620	5,350	1,290
30 June	1,170	3,010	1,110
30 September	920	5,420	1,080
31 December	980	2,490	960
2004			
31 March	1,050	4,270	1,010
30 June	820	2,380	650
30 September	920	3,610	590
31 December	990	2,000	520
2005			
31 March	970	3,690	410

[1] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Astute Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service date is for the first of the Astute submarines. [3815]

Mr. Ingram: HMS Astute, the first of the Astute Class, is due to enter service in 2009.

Departmental IT Projects

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his Department's IT projects in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* amount spent and *(b)* purpose; and whether each project has over-run. [2341]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3307]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence does not hold details of the numbers of trade union learning representatives. These are appointed by their trade union from within the elected representative community and usually have other TU duties in addition to this particular role.

Fairford Air Base

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the Royal Air Force to use Fairford air base jointly with the US Air Force after the runway is refurbished at RAF Brize Norton. [2638]

Mr. Ingram: We are currently in discussion with the US Air Force about the possibility of RAF units periodically using RAF Fairford for operational training exercises. No decisions have been made.

Far East Detainees (Compensation)

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of requests for compensation from Far East detainees previously disqualified. [4609]

Mr. Touhig: The Ex Gratia Payment Scheme for Far East Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees is currently the subject of a judicial review in relation to a former civilian internee whose claim for payment was rejected. It is not appropriate at this stage to comment further.

Iraq

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other allied countries in support of military and security action in Iraq since 2002–03. [3636]

Mr. Ingram: The net additional costs of operations in Iraq are published each year in the Ministry of Defence's annual report and accounts. Costs for financial year 2002–03 were £847 million and for 2003–04 £1,311 million. Costs for financial year 2004–05 will be published in the MOD's next annual report and accounts in the autumn.

Costs incurred by other allied countries are a matter for them.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many additional troops the UK intends to send to *(a)* Najaf and *(b)* Qadisiyah in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [3650]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom does not have any troops deployed in Najaf or Al Qadisiyah. There are currently no plans to deploy UK forces to these areas or elsewhere outside the boundaries of Multi National Division (South East).

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects British troops to complete the present mission in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [4661]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom is committed to remaining in Iraq for as long as the Iraqi Government judge that the coalition is required to provide security and assist the Iraqi Security Forces. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546, which provides the present legal basis for the coalition presence in Iraq, makes clear the mandate for multi-national forces will expire upon the completion of the current political process, and will be terminated earlier if requested by the Government of Iraq.

MARS Programme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current estimate for the *(a)* in-service date and *(b)* cost of Royal Navy tankers under the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme is; what the original estimates were; and if he will make a statement. [2975]

Mr. Ingram: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme is currently in the Concept Phase and no decisions have yet been made on the scope, timing or costs of the programme. These matters will be addressed during the Assessment Phase, which is planned to commence shortly.

Ministerial Expenses

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to write to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford concerning question 191401, of 18 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 1835W, on ministerial expenses. [1064]

Mr. Touhig: I replied to the hon. Member today, and placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Regimental Uniforms

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 24W, on army boots, whether the figures given for jungle boots and desert boots are *(a)* the manufacturer's life-span specification and *(b)* the life-span obtained from combat conditions; and which manufacturer supplies the (i) jungle boot and (ii) desert boot. [3256]

Mr. Ingram: The figures given for the life span for both jungle and desert boots are estimated figures. In respect of individual items there may be a different life span for each boot procured, and this would be impacted upon to a large extent by their actual use.

The Prime Contractor for footwear is Iturri SA through the prime contract mentioned in my answer of 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 24W.

Religious Texts (Iraq/Afghanistan)

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance he has issued to UK forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan on appropriate treatment of religious texts and other materials; and whether he has received reports of inappropriate behaviour in this respect. [3084]

Mr. Touhig: All United Kingdom armed forces personnel undergo cultural awareness training as part of their theatre specific pre-deployment training package. We have received no reports of inappropriate treatment of religious texts and other materials by UK forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Royal Navy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned out-of-service date is for the Royal Navy's repair ship, RFA Diligence; and what his plans for replacing the ship are. [3881]

Mr. Ingram: It is currently planned that RFA Diligence will remain in service until 2014. Decisions have yet to be taken on how best to deliver future Operational Maintenance and Repair capability.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service date is for *(a)* HMS Superb and *(b)* HMS Trafalgar. [3816]

Mr. Ingram: Both boats are planned to be withdrawn from service in 2008.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which helicopter will operate from the four batch Type-22 frigates from 2008. [3880]

Mr. Ingram: Lynx helicopters will continue to operate from the four batch 3 Type-22 frigates until a replacement for the Lynx Mk3/8 is delivered under our future helicopter programme.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the out-of-service date for each of the remaining Type-42 destroyers. [3883]

Mr. Ingram: The latest planned withdrawal dates are as follows:

	Type-42 destroyers
Type 42 Batch 1:	
2005	HMS Cardiff
Type 42 Batch 2:	
2009	HMS Exeter
2010	HMS Southampton
2012	HMS Nottingham
2009	HMS Liverpool
Type 42 Batch 3:	
2011	HMS Manchester
2011	HMS Gloucester
2013	HMS Edinburgh
2012	HMS York

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the in-service date for each of the eight Type-45 destroyers. [3884]

Mr. Ingram: Six Type-45 destroyers are currently on order. The planned in-service date (ISD) for the First of Class, HMS Daring, is May 2009. The remaining five ships are planned to enter service at intervals over a four-year period following the First of Class ISD.

Territorial Army

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of the Territorial Army has been in each of the last 10 years. [3661]

Mr. Touhig *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The strength of the Territorial Army (TA) for the last 10 years is as follows:

Dates	*Strength*
1995	59,690
1996	57,260
1997	57,620
1998	56,980
1999	52,260

Dates	Strength
2000	44,840
2001	41,510
2002	40,900
2003	39,610
2004	38,320
2005	37,260

The April 2005 figure is provisional and subject to revision.

Tracked Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to phase out the S series of tracked vehicles. [3258]

Mr. Ingram: The S series of tracked vehicles comprises the following variants of the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked) (CVR(T)): Scimitar, Sultan, Samson, Samaritan, Spartan, Striker, Sabre, Scorpion.

The CVR(T) fleet will be supported until its planned out of service date of 2014 when it is scheduled to be replaced by elements of the Future Rapid Effects System (FRES) suite of vehicles and the Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle (CLV). The initial variants of FRES are due to be in service early in the next decade and the Panther is due to come into service in November 2007.

UK Energy Supplies

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and *(b)* others on the security of gas supplies to the UK which are imported from abroad. [3413]

Mr. Ingram: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has not had any specific discussions with his right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry or others in regards to the security of gas supplies to the UK. Ministry of Defence officials continue to be engaged in DTI and FCO work on a range of energy security matters.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he made of requirements to protect UK access to pipelines and gas supplies in his decision to decommission the three Type-23 frigates; [3791]

(2) what the role of Type 23 destroyers is in the protection of UK energy supplies; if he will reverse the decision to decommission three of the fleet; and if he will make a statement. [3792]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence White Paper set out our analysis of the future security environment, of which one element was the potential for developments which could impact upon the security and stability of regions which contribute to global energy supplies.

The analysis of the future security environment formed the baseline against which the decision to rebalance and optimise the force structure was taken, including the decision to decommission three Type-23 frigates, as set out in Delivering Security in a Changing World, "Future Capabilities" (Cm 6260).

The new force structure has been designed to meet the broad range of operational demands we might expect in the future, through a range of inherently flexible and adaptable capabilities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Amnesty Papers

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey's constituent, Cesar Augusto Giraldo Gil and his daughter Francesca Zofia Wasik to receive notification of their amnesty papers. [4178]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* Mr. Gil has been asked to re-submit his application and I can assure my hon. Friend that when it is received it will receive prompt consideration.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were granted *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* exceptional leave to remain in each of the last eight years. [2971]

Mr. McNulty: The latest available statistics on the number of people granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK and those granted exceptional leave to remain can be found in the table.

The latest published data on settlement in the United Kingdom are for 2003. Further information on immigration can be found in the Command Paper 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2003' (Cm6363), available from the Library and from the Home Office website http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/commandpubs1.html. The 2004 edition is due to be published later this year.

Grants of settlement and exceptional leave to remain[1], United Kingdom[2], 1996 to 2004

	Total grants of settlement			Asylum cases granted ELR Cases considered under normal procedures				
	Total	On removal of time limit (ILR)	Settlement on arrival (ILE)	Total	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave, discretionary leave or humanitarian protection[3]	Considered under backlog clearance exercise[4,5]	Exceptional leave granted when applicant had not applied for asylum
1996	61,730	59,610	2,120	7,295	2,240	5,055	—	12,255
1997	58,725	56,375	2,355	7,100	3,985	3,115	—	10,400
1998	69,790	66,895	2,895	9,255	5,345	3,910	—	2,830
1999	97,115	90,275	6,845	21,425	7,815	2,465	11,140	1,480
2000	125,945	117,750	8,190	32,195	10,375	11,495	10,325	1,780

Grants of settlement and exceptional leave to remain[1], United Kingdom[2], 1996 to 2004

	Total grants of settlement			*Asylum cases granted ELR Cases considered under normal procedures*				
	Total	*On removal of time limit (ILR)*	*Settlement on arrival (ILE)*	*Total*	*Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum*	*Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave, discretionary leave or humanitarian protection[3]*	*Considered under backlog clearance exercise[4, 5]*	*Exceptional leave granted when applicant had not applied for asylum*
2001	108,410	96,460	11,950	31,640	11,450	20,190	—	680
2002	118,255	109,690	8,560	28,410	8,270	20,135	—	70
2003[6]	143,845	140,985	2,860	11,075	3,865	7,210	—	n/a
2004[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,510	1,515	3,995	—	n/a

[1] Information is on initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
[3] Humanitarian Protection (HP) and Discretionary Leave (DL) replaced Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR) from 1 April 2003.
[4] Cases decided under measured aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum backlog criteria.
[5] Includes cases where asylum or exceptional leave has been granted under the backlog criteria.
[6] Provisional data.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to meet the French Government to discuss the setting up in France of offices where applicants for asylum in the UK could make an application to British officials; and if he will make a statement. [3624]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has no plans to meet with the French Government to discuss the setting up in France of offices where applicants for asylum in the UK could make an application to British officials. It is accepted internationally that asylum seekers should seek asylum in the first safe country they reach. Where juxtaposed controls are in operation, it is clearly established in all instances that the host State should remain responsible for those claiming asylum at such controls, so that an asylum application made at the UK controls in France will be handled by the French authorities and vice versa.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to *(a)* Mr. Mohammed Kader Babakh, dated 24 March, *(b)* Mrs. Eva Fletcher, dated 7 April, *(c)* Mr. Sami Ullah, dated 7 April and *(d)* Mr. Angus Charles Mincher, dated 24 March. [189]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The information requested is as follows:

(a) I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 May.

(b) I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 May.

(c) I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 May.

(d) I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 May.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letters to his predecessor from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to *(a)* Mrs. Guy-Blackburn, dated 9 December 2004, *(b)* Mr. Jamal Mohammed Bin Omar, dated 7 February, *(c)* Azis Nicolae Bobric, dated 27 January and *(d)* Mr. Malik Arshad Mahmoud, dated 5 April. [191]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The information requested is as follows.

(a) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 8 June.

(b) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 1 March.

(c) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 14 June.

(d) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 24 May.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he will reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to *(a)* Mr. Mollan Orlando Bell, dated 29 March, *(b)* Vinleslav Cahalo, dated 30 March, *(c)* Mr. Anisuzzaman Milon, dated 4 April and *(d)* Mr. M. Osman Mohammoud, dated 14 February; [192]

(2) when he will answer the letter to him dated 29 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Mollan Orlando Bell. [2124]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The information requested is as follows.

(a) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 14 June.

(b) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 25 May.

(c) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 24 May.

(d) My hon. Friend the Minister for Race Equality, Community Policy and Civil Renewal wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 February.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he will answer the letter to him dated 22 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Nisar Ahmed; [2123]

(2) when he will answer the letter dated 22 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Nisar Ahmo. [2630]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 9 June 2005.

Crime (Rural Areas)

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to meet police officers from Norfolk to discuss matters of local concern. [1376]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I regularly meet with police officers from Norfolk.

Crime Records

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the percentage change in recorded crime statistics resulting

from the changes made by the National Crime Recording Standards in 2002–03, broken down by type of crime. [1390]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Percentage change figures for those offences where it was possible to make an estimate of the impact of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) are published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/03 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2002–03'. Table 3.04 gives the available information and the publication is available on the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb703.pdf '

A detailed analysis of the impact of the NCRS was published in a companion volume to 'Crime in England and Wales 2002–03'. This gives details of the impact for certain offence groups and is available on the Home Office Research and Statistics website as online report 31/03.

Eurostar

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many undocumented passengers arrived at Waterloo on the Eurostar in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [3628]

Mr. McNulty: Locally collated management information, which may be subject to change indicates that in the last six months there were 11 cases of undocumented passengers arriving at Waterloo, which were referred to the Immigration Service by other agencies.

Four arrived in December 2004

Four arrived in April 2005

Three arrived in May 2005

G8 Summit

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) under what circumstances United States armed forces may be deployed against protesters at *(a)* the G8 Summit and *(b)* Prestwick airport; and under whose authority such deployment may be made; [4046]

(2) what equipment US forces will be issued with in the United Kingdom while deployed to guard *(a)* the G8 Summit and *(b)* Prestwick airport; [4047]

(3) what the rules of engagement of United States military personnel will be while deployed on UK soil to guard *(a)* the G8 Summit and *(b)* Prestwick airport; [4048]

(4) what equipment UK security forces will have available for deployment at the G8 Summit; [4049]

(5) whether the United States military forces that are to be deployed in the United Kingdom for the G8 Summit will be *(a)* under UK law jurisdiction and *(b)* exempted under (i) the Visiting Forces Act 1952 and (ii) the Visiting Forces and International Headquarters (Application of Law) Order 1999; and if he will make a statement; [4045]

(6) how many military forces will be deployed by the United States to Scotland for the G8 Summit. [4003]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Policing and security arrangements for the forthcoming G8 Summit are a devolved responsibility for the Scottish Executive and Scottish police forces. Scottish Executive and Tayside Police have confirmed that US military personnel will play no role in the security operation.

Identity Cards

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the likely impact of identity cards on *(a)* immigration control, *(b)* illegal working, *(c)* misuse of public services, *(d)* activities of organised criminals and *(e)* terrorism. [4143]

Mr. McNulty: The Identity Cards Bill Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), published on 25 May 2005, outlines the assessed benefits of the identity cards scheme in section two. Benefits specifically relating to the categories mentioned in the question above are summarised below: The scheme will provide a straightforward means to record and verify the immigration status of all residents aged 16 and over. The verification service will be available not just to the authorities for maintaining immigration controls but also to employers to check status and entitlement to work. The scheme will reduce the opportunity for those facilitating terrorist and organised criminal activity to operate using multiple identities, encourage verifiable proof of identity when conducting major financial transactions, provide the capability—with independent oversight—for law enforcement and security agencies to be provided with information on when a person's record on the National Identity Register has been checked or amended, allow for the more efficient use of police resources and to check fingerprint biometric information at scenes of crime where no match can be found against existing police records. Public services will benefit from the ID cards scheme through improving the administration of social security benefits, eligibility checks for free non-emergency NHS treatment, adult allocation of the national insurance number; speeding up and improving the accuracy of Criminal Records Bureau checks and in more general ways through speeding up administrative processes.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what he expects the cost to be for replacement of lost identity cards. [4136]

Mr. McNulty: No decisions have yet been made about the cost to the individual of replacing a lost ID card. The current best estimate of the average annual operating costs of issuing biometric passports and ID cards of £584 million which was published in the regulatory impact assessment on 25 May 2005 includes an allowance for the replacement of lost, stolen and damaged cards.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the pilot studies carried out for the identity cards scheme. [4141]

Mr. McNulty: The United Kingdom Passport Service (UKPS) biometric enrolment trial, carried out in collaboration with Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and the Identity Cards Programme team, is the only

pilot study carried out for the identity cards scheme to date. The UKPS trial was not a trial of ID cards nor the technology involved, rather a test of the practicalities of enrolling people's biometrics and people's perceptions of that process. A great deal was learnt from the trial. We now know much more about the practicalities of biometric enrolment and issues that arise with enrolment on such a large scale. We also learned that people's perception of the process was very positive overall, with a post-trial reduction in those who had reported concerns about having their biometrics taken pre-trial and a majority reporting a better than expected level of intrusion at the process. The vast majority of participants found their expectations of the overall experience to have been met or bettered. The full results of the trial are available on the UKPS website http://www.ukpa.gov.uk/news/news.asp?intElement=986.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the technology that will be used for identity cards; and if he will make a statement. [4144]

Mr. McNulty: Given the constant advancement of biometric technology and the need to conduct a fair and thorough procurement process, final decisions have not been taken about the technology that will be used for the Identity Cards scheme.

Rather than evaluate equipment at this time, much of which may be superseded by the time cards are first issued, we are working with other Government Departments and with expert advice to set the requirements for performance. We have engaged independent and Government advisers to work on the Identity Cards programme team and to provide advice with regard to technologies to be considered for use by the Identity Cards scheme. We are also applying the lessons learnt from the experience of other large scale technology implementation projects within the Home Office and across Government.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the likely impact of identity cards on civil liberties; and what response he has made. [4145]

Mr. McNulty: Since the publication of the Identity Cards Bill on 25 May 2005, 21 representations have been received from members of the public. No representations have been received from any organisations or official bodies. The representations took the form of both letters and e-mails, and they expressed concern that the Identity Card Scheme would infringe civil liberties.

The Government believe that the Identity Cards Scheme will support civil liberties and human rights. The scheme will be bound by legislation such as the Data Protection Act, Human Rights Act and the Disability Discrimination Act. The Identity Cards Bill also contains a number of important safeguards such as setting limitations on the information that may be held by the scheme and its use. Only Parliament would be able to change the statutory purposes of the Register or the type of information which could be held and only via primary legislation.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he expects further primary legislation to be required to extend the use of the information stored on the National Identity Register in the second stage of the identity cards process. [4165]

Mr. McNulty: The scope of the legislation currently before Parliament is sufficient to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are realised without the need for further primary legislation.

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will have access to data stored in connection with identity cards. [4410]

Mr. McNulty: Other than staff involved in the administration of the scheme, no individual or organisation will have direct access to the National Identity Register itself.

Instead, accredited organisations will be allowed to verify information or, in certain circumstances, be able to obtain some limited information from the register through the scheme's verification services and—in the main—only with the consent of the card-holder. Information from the register can only be provided without the consent of the card-holder if specifically authorised by the powers in the Identity Cards Bill. Organisations entitled to request such information are listed on the face of the Bill and any changes to the list must be approved by Parliament.

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the proposed identity card will be for *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* the unemployed, *(c)* low earners, *(d)* lone parents and *(e)* students. [4413]

Mr. McNulty: The Identity Cards Bill provides powers to set concessionary fees. This is set out in clause 37 of the Bill. No decisions have yet been made in respect of the fee schedule or concessionary fees for Identity Cards, however Parliament will have the final say on the fees that will be charged.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum criminal penalty is which will apply to individuals who fail to comply with Clause 6(6) of the Identity Cards Bill. [4677]

Mr. McNulty: Clause 6(6) of the Identity Cards Bill imposes no criminal penalty for failing to register with the scheme should such an obligation be agreed by Parliament.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the requirements for the National Identity Register to be finalised. [4131]

Mr. McNulty: Work is continuing to specify requirements for the National Identity Register. The procurement phase of the scheme cannot begin until the Identity Cards Bill currently before Parliament is passed. In line with procurement best practice, each requirement will be finalised before the procurement starts, but the details will be worked through with potential suppliers to ensure that the Government can take full advantage of innovation in the market place.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to audit the accuracy and efficiency of *(a)* biometric readings and *(b)* the National Identity Register. [4134]

Mr. McNulty: During procurement we will undertake carefully designed scientific tests of the performance of the biometric system. The overall verification and identification performance of the ID card system will be tested both during rollout of the technology and when the scheme is running, this will include the quality of data held on the National Identity Register. Primarily, individual cardholders will be encouraged to keep their record up-to-date in order to maintain the integrity and accuracy of the register. It is likely that the convenience of having a reliable method of verifying identity in everyday situations will encourage individuals to keep their details up to date, so they can access services in a secure and speedy manner. The proposed identity cards agency will seek to validate and verify new information provided as far as is practically possible. However, in addition, there is a power for the Secretary of State to require individuals to keep prescribed details up to date.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted on systems to link identity card readers to the National Identity Register. [4135]

Mr. McNulty: The Identity Cards Programme has examined the viability, resilience, security, technical interoperability and practicality of various reader and network options. This includes remote authentication where the card-holder and the service provider are not present at the same location, Chip and PIN and checks for the purposes of border control. For example, the ID Cards Programme is working closely with the Association for Payment Clearing Services to examine the technical architecture underpinning Chip and PIN and to benefit from lessons learned during the rollout. The dialogue will help to develop considerations of where shared technical opportunities with the Chip and PIN infrastructure might exist in the future.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what types of machinery and equipment are used by immigration officials to detect illegal immigrants at the *(a)* Hull, *(b)* Dover, *(c)* Portsmouth and *(d)* Southampton ports of entry; and how many hours per day on average each was used in the last period for which figures are available. [3140]

Mr. McNulty: The following detection systems are used by the Immigration Service port operators and carriers:

Dover

The Immigration Service operates a juxtaposed control for services arriving at Dover in Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque.

Calais

CO2 Probes, manual passenger vehicle checks, use of body detection dogs (operated by the Immigration Service), Heartbeat detectors, Passive Millimetric Wave Imagers (PMMWI) (operated by the Calais Chamber of Commerce)

Dunkerque

CO2 probes and body detection dogs (operated by the Immigration Service) CO2 probes (operated by the carrier)

Boulogne

No freight vehicles use these services. Passenger vehicles are checked manually on a risk assessed basis by Immigration Service staff.

Hull, Southampton, Portsmouth

CO2 probes (Operated by the Immigration Service)

In addition to these checks the Mobile Freight Search Team operates at all UK seaports and at juxtaposed locations and is deployed on a risk assessed, intelligence led basis. The team uses a gamma ray scanner, CO2 probes and body detection dogs.

It is not possible to provide details of how many hours per day these systems are operated as these figures are not collated.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detected at the *(a)* Hull, *(b)* Dover, *(c)* Portsmouth and *(d)* Southampton ports of entry in the last six months for which figures are available. [3141]

Mr. McNulty: All figures in this response are locally collated management information.

The numbers of illegal immigrants detected in the ports specified are as follows:

	2004	*2005*				
	December	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*
Hull	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dover	45	86	37	33	27	50
Portsmouth	12	7	4	10	16	18
Southampton	0	0	0	0	0	0

From 1 December 2004 to 22 May 2005 3,268 persons were prevented from boarding by port authorities checks and 2,590 were detected by the Immigration Service at juxtaposed locations serving Dover from 1 December to 31 May 2005. 2,560 were reported by carriers as the number of persons off-loaded at ports with services to Portsmouth in the same period.

Motoring Offences

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been fined under the offence of using a hand held mobile phone while driving; how many people have contested the fines; and what revenue has been raised through fines, broken down by *(a)* month and *(b)* police authority region. [2294]

Hazel Blears: Available information on the number of fixed penalty notices and court fines ordered to be paid for the new offence (introduced as from 1 December 2003) of driving while using a hand held mobile telephone is given in the table. Statistics are not collected centrally on appeals against court fines by type of offence. Information on revenue raised through fines is also not available centrally but data are given in the table on the amount of fines imposed by the courts and on the estimated revenue from fixed penalties. Fixed penalty notice data are submitted to the Home Office on a calendar year basis from police forces and as such it is not possible for a month by month break down.

2004 data will be available in early 2006.

Use of a hands free mobile phone is not part of the new offence.

Fixed penalty notices and court proceedings data for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1] by police force area, England and Wales 2003

Number of offences

	Type of action			
	Court proceedings[2]		Fixed penalties	
	Total findings of guilt	Amount of fines (£)	Number of tickets[3]	Estimated revenue (£)[4]
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	[5]1	30	10	300
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	13	390
Cumbria	—	—	13	390
Derbyshire	—	—	13	390
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	345	10,350
Dorset	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	147	4,410
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	54	1,620
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	15	450
Lancashire	—	—	34	1,020
Leicestershire	—	—	17	510
Lincolnshire	—	—	7	210
London, City of	—	—	45	1,350
Merseyside	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	681	20,430
Norfolk	—	—	17	510
Northamptonshire	—	—	1	30
Northumbria	—	—	56	1,680
North Yorkshire	—	—	5	150
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	28	840
Staffordshire	—	—	12	360
Suffolk	—	—	42	1,260
Surrey	—	—	164	4,920
Sussex	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	25	750
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	144	4,320
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	1	30	1,888	56,640

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.

[2] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[3] Only covers tickets paid where there is no further action.

[4] Estimate based on fixed penalty charge of £30.

[5] In the month of December 2003.

Policing

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent per capita from central Government funds on policing in *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire, *(b)* Humberside and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [3601]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 514W.

Information on spend for policing in the East Riding of Yorkshire is not held centrally. The distribution of resources within a force area is a matter for the chief constable and the police authority.

Probation Reports

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports were prepared by probation officers for people convicted of any offence in each year since 2000 in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England; and how many of those reports were challenged and subsequently found to be unreasonable. [1219]

Fiona Mactaggart: The number of pre-sentence reports and specific sentence reports (now replaced by the Fast Delivery PSR) written by probation officers in the Essex probation area and in all probation areas in England in each year since 2000 is given in the following table. Information on the number of reports which were challenged and subsequently found to be unreasonable is not collected centrally.

Number of pre-sentence reports and specific sentence reports

	Essex	*England*
2000	4,894	236,984
2001	3,300	231,510
2002	3,967	236,750
2003	4,205	228,519

Public Service Agreement Targets

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department has made on each of its public service agreement targets as set down in spending reviews since 1997. [1392]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Public service agreement (PSA) targets have been set every two years as part of the Spending Review. Since 1997 there have been four reviews: the 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review, and the 2000, 2002 and 2004 Spending Reviews.

Performance against all PSA targets has been reported in our Annual Report since 1999–2000. Since 2002, performance has also been reported in our autumn performance report. The Treasury also introduced a performance reporting website in 2003 www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/performance. The Home Office Annual Report for 2004–05 with the latest performance information will be published in June.

Violent Crime (Pembrokeshire)

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes have been recorded in Pembrokeshire in each year since 1997. [3739]

Hazel Blears: The available information relates to the Pembrokeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and is given in the tables. Data at CDRP level are only available from 1999–2000.

Table 1: Violent crimes recorded by the police in the Pembrokeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 1999–2000 to 2001–02

	Number of offences
1999–2000	1,273
2000–01	1,341
2001–02	1,239

Note:
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Violent crimes recorded by the police in the Pembrokeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 2002–03 and 2003–04

	Number of offences
2002–03	1,402
2003–04	2,120

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Community Justice Facilities

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the Community Justice Centre in Liverpool. [1773]

Ms Harman: My Department, Home Office and CPS have been working together to develop the first pilot Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool, to help tackle antisocial behaviour and quality of life crime problems facing the area.

The Community Justice Centre will provide a community centre, a court and an experienced team of professionals, including the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Probation Service, defence representatives, youth services and a range of advice providers. It will also offer access to a range of services to address the underlying problems causing crime, for example debt counselling and housing advice. These services will be available to victims, witnesses and their families, local residents and offenders.

His Honour Judge Fletcher began hearing cases for the area from 9 December 2004 in a courtroom in Liverpool's Dale Street magistrates court. Over 700 hearings have taken place to date.

Contact Orders

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many contact orders were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 in each year since the Act came into force; [4184]

(2) in how many cases in which contact orders were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused domestic violence was cited in each year since their inception. [4185]

Ms Harman: The Children Act 1989 was implemented on 14 October 1991. The number of contact orders granted and refused since 1992 is set out as follows.

	Granted	*Refused*
2004	70,169	504
2003	67,184	601
2003	61,356	518
2001	55,030	713
2000	46,070	1,276
1999	41,862	1,752
1998	49,313	1,911
1997	42,065	1,847
1996	39,982	1,877
1995	35,753	1,894
1994	31,506	2,113
1993	27,780	1,956
1992	17,470	1,092

The data requested on the number of cases that cited domestic violence are not held centrally. One recent research report (Wade and Smart, DCA Research Series 06/2003), however, did suggest that around 25 per cent. of child contact cases involved allegations of domestic violence. From 31 January new forms for applications for child contact and residence were introduced. These 'Gateway forms' identify allegations of harm at the beginning of the court process. We are committed to evaluating the impact of these forms and further research is planned for one year on from implementation with a report expected in the autumn of 2006.

Drugs Courts

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to set up designated drugs courts in the Greater London area; and if she will make a statement. [2704]

Ms Harman: The Government are committed to establishing a pilot of a dedicated drug court by the end of 2005. It is anticipated that this pilot will involve trained sentencers, inter-agency co-operation and regular court reviews by a consistent court to track an offender's progress from sentence through to completion or breach of an order. The pilot builds upon international evidence and existing best practice that close sentencer review of drug treatment can play a role in successful rehabilitation.

The Government are currently determining the exact scope and best sites for the pilot, but it is likely that one location for the pilot will take place in London. A further announcement will be made in due course.

Electoral Administration/Register

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Government have to amend electoral law in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Northern Ireland and *(c)* Wales in the forthcoming Electoral Administration Bill. [3608]

Ms Harman: The conduct of parliamentary and local elections in Wales is not devolved and therefore the measures included in the Electoral Administration Bill will apply to Wales. The conduct of parliamentary elections and the franchise in Scotland is reserved and therefore the measures in the Bill will apply to Scotland in respect of these matters. Discussions with Scotland in respect of the impact on local government elections, and with Northern Ireland, where the conduct of all elections is excepted, are currently on-going and at present we cannot comment on the what the outcome of these will be.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what procedures are in place for the Department to audit the accuracy of electoral rolls. [2727]

Ms Harman: The Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983 requires electoral registration officers (EROs) appointed by local authorities for the purpose to compile the electoral register as accurately as possible. The Act gives this responsibility to EROs who act independently for these purposes.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the *(a)* number and *(b)* nature of election counts held in each year since 1999. [3300]

Ms Harman: The information since 1997 is in the following table.

Date	*Location*	*Petitioner/s*	*Respondent/s*	*Grounds*	*Result*
Parliamentary					
14 May 1997	Dagenham	Richard Henry Dawson	Jack Thomas	R/O negligent in that he accepted nominations from non-electors etc.	Lapsed
15 May 1997	Winchester	Gerald Malone	Mark Oaten, Lindsey Garrett Fox	Quality of Ballot papers rejected for want of official mark and rejected ballot papers disputed	Special Case 6 October1997 Petition Allowed
22 May 1997	North East Bedfordshire	Ashley Leggett	Sir Nicholas Walter Lyell QC George Coates	Sir Nicholas Walter Lyell formerly Peter Rubery Hayward prevented from standing as a candidate by interim injunction obtained by Sir Nicholas Walter Lyell QC	Lapsed

Date	Location	Petitioner/s	Respondent/s	Grounds	Result
10 August 2001	Romford	Peter Brian Thorogood	Andrew Rosindell	Offences contrary to s. 113 (i) and (2)(b) of RPA1983 (no details given)	Lapsed
European					
14 June 2004	Eastern England	John James Naisbitt	David Monks	Various	Struck Out 30 July 2004
Local government					
15 September 1997	Pakenham Ward of St. Edmundsbury	Lisa Francis Couper	Lynn Aisbett Valerie Ann White	Votes cast for petition wrongly recorded by R/O	Special Case 17 October 1997 Petition Allowed. 2nd Respondent not duly elected. Petitioner should have been declared duly elected
6 May1999	Daneside Ward of Seaham Town Council	Steven Paul Colbon	Geraldine Bleasdale John Henry Bleasdale James Dickinson Edwards Toni Robson Marion Florence Wood James Sheenin	Nomination rejected as invalid	Special Case 30 July 1999 Petition Dismissed. Issued out of time
26 May 1999	Selby Central Ward, Selby District Council	Wendy Ruth Nicholls	Melanie Ann Davis Richard Kenneth Fogden Martin Connor	Votes incorrectly counted	Special Case 30 July 1999 Petition Allowed. Election valid. 2nd Respondent not elected. Petitioner elected
26 May 1999	Creneswater Ward of Southsea Parish Council	Simon James Cattermole	Nicola Vanessa Bentley Rubayat Rahman Choud David Heaven Roger James Nick Gurney	Votes incorrectly counted	Special Case 30 July 1999 Petition Allowed. Election valid. 4th Respondent not elected. Petitioner elected
27 May 1999	Longfield Ward of Dartford Borough Council	Alistair Samuel Jordan	Robert John Dunn Albert Raymond Bassum Jeremy Alan Kite Christopher Shepherd	Candidate disqualified for standing—did not occupy property within area for whole of previous 12 months	Lapsed
27 May 1999	Aston Ward, Birmingham District Council	Gabra Miah	Ahmed Iftikhar	1. Illegal practice, respondent published false statements about petition 2. corrupt practice, 3rd party included unauthorised election expenses 3. invalid nomination of fellow candidate	11 November 1999 Commissioner Application to dismiss by Respondent. Allowed. Petition dismissed. Trial date vacated
27 May 1999	Parish of Baileston	Ruth Marjorie Dickson	Robert Charles Bailey and ors	Votes incorrectly counted	Special Case 15 December 1999 Petition Allowed. Election valid. 15th Respondent not elected. 10th Respondent elected
27 May 1999	Rossington West Ward of Rossington Parish Council	Barry Johnson	Nicholas Dobson Doreen Appleby and ors	Votes incorrectly counted	Special Case 30 July 1999 Petition Allowed. Election Valid. 2nd Respondent not elected. Petitioner elected
25 May 1999	Haughton East and	Leslie Upton	David Lynotte and 8 ors	Undue influence impeding free exercise of franchise by use of Cabinet Minister and ors officials to influence voters	Lapsed
20 April 2000	South East Ward of Knighton Town Council in Powys	Janice Geraldine Harris	Angus John Gilmore Jackie Tonge	Votes incorrectly counted(some not counted)	Special Case 11 December 2000 Petition Allowed. Election Valid. 1st Respondent not elected. Petitioner elected
20 May 2000	Parish of Bracknell Ward of Bracknell Town Council	Walter Alfred Thompson	Susan Margaret Thompson Gordon Mitchell	Votes incorrectly counted	Special Case 25 July 2000 Petition Allowed. Election Valid. 1st Respondent not elected. Petitioner elected
25 May 2000	Sparkhill Ward of Birmingham City Council	Emily Cox Amen Ellachi Akhlag Ahmed Tony King	Jagdip Rai and Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council	Personation, error, treating, bribery, undue Influence overspending election expenses	25 July 2000 Application to strike out on grounds of late service of Petition. Dismissed
25 May 2000	Nicholls Ward, Birmingham City Council	Abdul Malik	Mohammed Mansoor and Returning Office	Voters abroad shown as having voted	Lapsed
27 June 2001	South Ribble North West Electoral Division of Lancashire County Council	Peter Terence Wakeling	Anthony Edward Pimblett Max Winterbottom	Ballot papers for another Electoral Division handed out to some voters in error	Special Case 5 October 2001 Petition Allowed. Election void. 1st Respondent not duly elected

Date	Location	Petitioner/s	Respondent/s	Grounds	Result
27 June 2001	Ellogen North Electoral Division, Redruth, Cornwall	Terence Alan Rowe	Paul Thomas Holmes Geoffrey Gordon Cox Adam John Beer Noel Hutchinson	2 votes included wrongly	Special Case 18 December 2001 Petition Allowed. Election Void. 1st Respondent not duly elected
22 May 2002	Sands End Ward of London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	Colin George Pavelin	Richard Harbord Stephen James Hamilton	Ballot papers rejected for want of official mark affected result	Special Case 31 July 2002 Petition Allowed. Election Void. 2nd Respondent not duly elected
23 May 2002	Aston Ward, City of Birmingham	Nain Ahmed	Anthony Paul Kennedy Stewart Dobson	Successful candidate made false statements about petitions for purpose of affecting the result and/or alleged irregularities regarding opening of postal votes	4 October 2002 Petition Struck out against 2nd Respondent 11 October 2002 Petition Struck out against 1st Respondent
23 May 2002	Little Horton Ward of Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council	Jamshed Khan	Taj Mubarik Salam Ian J. Stewart	Error in Counting votes	29 November 2002 Petition Dismissed
23 May 2002	Cheetham Ward, City of Manchester	Habib Ullah Mohammed Sabir Basten Ahmed Misbah Begum	Martin Donald Pagel Andrew Scallen	Requests for proxy votes ignored, Personation, delay in taking ballot box to council, comments by 1st Respondent during campaign	11 October 2002 Petition Struck Out
23 May 2002	Peckham Ward, London Borough of Southwark	Mike Jinnah Rahman Annette Pallas Natalie Ajeon	Barrie John Hargrove William Kayada Tayo Adelane Situ	Marked Register missing, Ballot box late arriving at court, count started before candidates arrived, voters removed from register, confusion over postal votes	29 November 2002 Petition dismissed with consent of 1st Petitioner on behalf of co petitioners
21 May 2003	Belle Vale and Hasbury Ward, Metropolitan Borough of Dudley	Martin Christopher Knight	Jill Cheryl Nicholls Andrew Sparke	Failure by R/O to ensure issued ballot papers were delivered in accordance with Part V of Rep. of People Regulations 2001	19 December 2003 Petition dismissed
21 May 2003	St. Helens Borough Council in the Parish of Sereley Green	Sandra Cleary	Joan Davies Peter Blackburn	Votes miscounted	Special Case 17 October 2003 Election Void. Joan Davies not duly elected
21 May 2003	College Ward of Wansbeck District Council	James Sawyer	Michael Raymond Kirkup Robert Stephenson	Votes miscounted block of votes wrongly allocated to candidates	Special Case 17 October 2003 Election Void. 1st Respondent not duly elected. Petitioner duly elected
21 May 2003	Broughton and Appleby Ward, North Lincolnshire District Council	Kenneth Anthony Edgell	Ivan Glover Michael Garnett	Ballot papers in respect of postal voter wrongly counted—did not bear signature and authentication of voter	4 November 2003 Petition Granted. Election Void. Ivan Glover not duly elected
23 May 2003	Hartley Parish Council	Trevor Royston Modell	Christopher Alford	False Statement against Petitioner issued by Respondent calculated to affect Petitioners prospects of being re-elected	Lapsed
28 May 2003	Lightwater Ward, Borough of Surrey-Heath	Lindsey Fellows	Malcolm Bell Dorothy Drummond Peter Edward Harper Alan Clevely Mr. Ghandum	Election circulation delivered by Royal Mail to constituents in contravention of RP Act	31 July 2003 Permission to Withdraw Granted
28 May 2003	Windlesham Parish Council—Lightwater Ward	Lindsey Fellows	Surinder Ghandum Alan Clevely	Election circulation delivered by Royal Mail to constituents in contravention of RP Act	31 July 2003 Permission to Withdraw Granted
23 June 2004	Aston Ward, Birmingham City Council	Ayaz Iqbal Nagmen Mir Qadeer Ahmed Naser Iqbal	Mohammed Islam Muhammed Afzal Mohammed Kazi Lin Homer	Various concerning postal voting	4 April 2005 Petition Allowed. Election Void
29 June 2003	Park Ward, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough	CM Saghir Shakir Saghir Faisal Saghir	M. Najib and 3 ors	All postal ballot pilot failed. Breach of Duty. Improper and unfair conduct	22 March 2005 Petition Struck Out
29 June 2003	Bordesley Green, Birmingham City Council	Jamil Akhtar and 3 ors	Shah Jahan and 6 ors	Disputing postal ballot papers—tampering and Personation	4 April 2005 Petition Allowed. Election Void
30 June 2004	Derringham Ward, Kingston upon Hull	John Philip Considine	John Didrichsen	Various—postal ballot papers	24 November 2004 Election void
6 July 2004	Flintshire	Peter Pemberton	Stella Jones	Tyrone Wilcox was disqualified from standing for election	20 December 2004 Petition Dismissed

Faith Awareness Training

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3810]

Ms Harman: My Department requires all new staff to attend Diversity Awareness Training. In December 2003 the Diversity Awareness Training course was updated to take account of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations.

1,872 new entrants to the Department attended the Diversity Awareness Training course during 2004.

In addition staff in the Department were informed of the Religion or Belief Regulations through a number of communication channels. These included articles in staff magazines, team briefing sessions and guidance notes that were placed on the Department's intranet.

Fixed-term Judicial Appointments

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will commission research into the experience in Commonwealth countries of fixed-term judicial appointments and its applicability to the UK. [4714]

Ms Harman: There are currently no plans to carry out such research.

Freedom of Information Act

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been referred to the Central Clearing House; and what proportion of these referrals have been accompanied by a recommendation that an exemption should be applied to the request. [4596]

Ms Harman: Since the Freedom of Information Act came into force on 1 January, 2,080 cases have been referred to the Clearing House, including Internal Reviews and appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office. The first quarterly monitoring report is due to be published on 23 June providing a wide range of information on FOI requests received by central Government Departments.

Specific information relating to the proportion of cases in which the Clearing House has advised that an exemption is applicable cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Local Elections

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Government have to hold *(a)* all-postal and *(b)* e-voting pilot schemes in local elections. [3704]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 483W.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the 2006 local elections will be conducted by all-postal ballots. [1761]

Ms Harman: Under the Representation of the People Act 2000 the Secretary of State is obliged by law to consider any application from a local authority to pilot innovative voting methods and we will consider them on a case by case basis. We have no intention to amend the RPA 2000 in this respect.

Magistrates (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress has been made in appointing more magistrates from the most deprived wards in Warrington borough. [3193]

Ms Harman: The Cheshire Advisory Committee is responsible for recruiting magistrates in Warrington and will be submitting its recommendations for appointment in July. In the past 12–18 months the Advisory Committee have made particular efforts to raise awareness of the magistracy and target recruitment effort in Warrington, particularly those areas.

The Cheshire Advisory Committee are aiming to make eight appointments this year (five of which are from the north of Warrington covering the most deprived areas). four magistrates were appointed to the Warrington Bench in 2002, five in 2003 and six in 2004.

Members of Parliament (Judicial Positions)

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether hon. Members will continue to be eligible to sit as recorders of the Crown court. [4715]

Ms Harman: There are no plans to disbar hon. Members from sitting in the Crown court as recorders. While full-time judicial office holders and some fee-paid judges are disqualified from sitting in both Houses, the Lord Chancellor does not feel that it is incompatible for recorders, deputy district judges, including magistrates' courts, and magistrates to discharge their judicial duties in parallel with their parliamentary and political responsibilities, provided they do nothing in their judicial capacity to suggest political partiality.

Postal Voting

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate the Government have made of the cost to local authorities of the implementation of *(a)* postal voting on demand and *(b)* the provisions outlined by the Department for inclusion in the Electoral Administration Bill. [3617]

Ms Harman: Local authorities fund the administration of postal voting from their own budgets and the cost to them will vary according to demand in the local authority area concerned. Information about such costs is not currently collected centrally, but we intend to give the Electoral Commission the power to do so. All the proposals in the Bill are being costed as part of policy development.

Private Finance Projects

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the private finance initiative and public-private partnership projects her Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2363]

Ms Harman: I list the private finance initiative and private-partnership projects currently undertaken by the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the status of each.

PFI Project	*Status*
Aramis	Operational-system is up and running.
National Probate Records	Operational—business is running. Ready for use since June 2001.
LOCCs	Operational-IT systems are up and running.
LIBRA	Operational—business is successfully running.
East Anglia Courts	Operational—courts sitting since July 2004.
Exeter Crown and County Court	Operational—court sittings commenced since November 2004.
Sheffield Family Hearing Centre	Operational—court Sittings commenced July 2004.
Hereford and Worcester Magistrates Courts	Operational—courts sitting since October 2001.
Humberside Magistrates Courts	Operational—courts sitting since November 2001.
Manchester Magistrates Courts	Operational—open to public in May 2004.
Derbyshire Magistrates Courts	Construction completed—Derby and Chesterfield magistrates courts are sitting. New Mills is awaiting the outcome of a court case.
Avon and Somerset Magistrates Courts	Under construction—contracts let in August 2004.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3553]

Ms Harman: My Department provided training for all senior managers (Grades 7 and above in HQ and senior operational managers in a range of grades in its agencies) on the duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. This was through a series of seminars and supporting guidance notes. Approximately 750 senior managers (6 per cent. of staff) attended the training and this was then cascaded by the senior managers to their staff.

At the same time the Department reviewed its Diversity Awareness Training course to include details of the duties under the Act. The Diversity Awareness Training course is a mandatory course for all new entrants to the Department.

The Department also reviewed its Employment Law for New Managers course to include details of the duties under the Act. The Employment Law for New Managers course is mandatory for all new managers in the Department.

Since 2002 the Department has been collecting data on training by responsibility level and ethnic origin. Due to the constraints of the current HR IT system we are only able to publish data by training type (developmental/business skills) and we do not have breakdowns for individual courses. The data collected is published in the Department's Equality and Diversity Report 2002–04.

The Department's HR IT system will be upgraded as part of an HR transformation programme.

Remote Electronic Voting

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what costs the Government have incurred in connection with remote electronic voting in each year since its introduction; and if she will make a statement on forecast expenditure on promoting e-voting. [3615]

Ms Harman: The Government launched their electoral modernisation programme in 2002. This commenced a three-year programme of electoral pilots to test new methods of voting and other electoral innovations at local elections. The costs that the Government have incurred in connection with remote electronic voting pilots was £2,261,204 in 2002 and £16,976,000 in 2003.

Future expenditure will depend on the electoral modernisation strategy, which is still in development.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what Implementing Electronic Government targets the Government have set local authorities to promote the implementation and take-up of remote electronic voting. [3616]

Ms Harman: The Government have not set any Implementing Electronic Government targets for local authorities to promote the implementation or take-up of remote electronic voting.

Televised Court Hearings

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Department plans to televise court hearings. [2821]

Ms Harman: We are considering whether any televising should be permitted. My Department recently carried out a public consultation on broadcasting court proceedings. The consultation paper and the entries in

our on-line discussion forum are available on the Department's website. Any change to the current prohibition would require primary legislation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Acquis Communautaire

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's estimate is of the size of the acquis communautaire; and if he will make a statement. [4567]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* The acquis communautaire consists of the principles, practices, policies, obligations, objectives and legal and other acts that have been agreed or have been developed over the years by the European Union and the European Communities. These include, in particular, the EU Treaties in their entirety, as well as all existing EU legislation and Court of Justice judgments.

The acquis ranges over virtually all policy areas and its content develops over time. To try to estimate its "size" would be as meaningless as to try to estimate the "size" of UK law.

Afghanistan

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by the UK on supporting measures to eradicate heroin poppy cultivation in Afghanistan; and what change there has been in the *(a)* cultivation of poppies and *(b)* production of heroin over the period of that support. [3761]

Dr. Howells: Since 2001 the UK's overall spend on counter narcotics work in Afghanistan has been as follows:

	Overall spend (£)
2001–02	31,000
2002–03	1,599,036
2003–04	16,500,931

Final outturn figures for financial year 2004–05 have not yet been confirmed.

However, we estimate total spend to be around £20 million.

The UK continues to provide substantial financial and practical support to the Afghan Government in the implementation of their comprehensive national drug control strategy. This year, the UK will spend more than £50 million, including £30 million on alternative livelihoods.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducts an annual survey into the level of opium poppy cultivation and production in Afghanistan. Full details can be found on their website at:

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/afg/afghanistan_opium_32survey 2004.pdf

During the period detailed, the reported levels of cultivation and production was as follows:

	Hectares	*Tonnes*
2001	8,000	185
2002	74,000	3,400
2003	80,000	3,600
2004	131,000	4,200

There are no reliable figures to show how much of this opium was processed into heroin within Afghanistan.

The UK, as lead nation on counter narcotics (CN), remains committed to supporting the Afghan Government in the implementation of their comprehensive 2005 CN implementation plan and in updating their national drug control strategy. I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 234–35W, on the counter narcotics programme in Afghanistan .

China

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the UK position on lifting the EU embargo on arms sales to China on *(a)* the UK balance of trade with the USA and *(b)* the UK arms industry. [1479]

Dr. Howells: The Government are concerned about the possibility of legislation being introduced by the US Congress and the effect that this may have on UK companies' future export sales and strategies. We are making and shall continue to make our views known to the US Administration and Congress to ensure that UK exports are not negatively affected as a result of any future lift of the EU embargo on arms sales to China. The European Council in December 2004 concluded that any decision on the arms embargo should not lead to

> "an increase in arms exports from EU Member States to China, neither in quantitative nor in qualitative terms".

Proposed exports from the UK defence industry to China will continue to be subject to the EU code of conduct, which is, and will remain, the key to controlling EU arms exports to China.

Colombia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Colombian Government on the recent arrest of the Colombian Agricultural Trade Union representative Hernando Hernandez Tapasco; and if he will make a statement. [2860]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Our embassy in Bogota has contacted the Colombian authorities to seek clarification of the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Hernando Hernandez Tapasco. The Colombians advise that he was lawfully arrested on 1 June 2005 in Bogota on suspicion of being a member of an illegal armed group.

Human rights are at the heart of our policy towards Colombia and we regularly raise such cases with the Colombian authorities. We also urge the Colombian

Government to implement the recommendations arising from successive annual reports from the Colombia office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and have offered our assistance to achieve this. Human rights have formed a significant strand in the three visits paid by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers to Colombia in the last few years.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer the letter dated 15 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. S. Siddique. [2632]

Dr. Howells: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 547W.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply in full to the letter from the hon. Member for Totnes of 6 April 2005 regarding Kit Marshall of Thurlestone and his detainment at Miami airport in January. [4713]

Ian Pearson: In April, consular officials at our Vice-Consulate in Orlando approached the US Immigration authorities at Miami airport about Mr. Marshall's case. The US authorities told them that Mr. Marshall's complaint is serious and as a result, has been forwarded to their headquarters in Washington, for further investigation.

We await a substantive reply from the headquarters in Washington and will continue to remind them of the need to respond to Mr. Marshall's complaint as soon as possible. The hon. Member will receive a full reply as soon as we have further information from the US immigration authorities in Washington.

Diego Garcia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how long the lease of Diego Garcia to the US runs; and what arrangements he expects will be put in place for Diego Garcia when the lease expires. [3656]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There is no lease of Diego Garcia to the United States. Under the Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom and United States concerning the Availability for Defence Purposes of the British Indian Ocean Territory of 30 December 1966, the whole Territory is to remain available to meet the possible defence needs of the two countries for an initial period of 50 years from 1966, and thereafter for a further period of 20 years unless either party has given prior notice to terminate it within the two years immediately before the end of the initial period. No plans have been made regarding what will happen in 2016 when the initial period of the agreement has expired.

East Timor

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of whether British citizens Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters, who died at Balibo, East Timor, on 16 October 1975, were murdered; and if he will make a statement. [4497]

Ian Pearson: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is unable to make an assessment about whether these two British citizens were murdered. The author of a report commissioned by the Australian Government in 1999 (the Sherman Report) concluded that he had

> "... never reached the stage of concluding that the Balibo 5 [of which Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie were two] were murdered ..."

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has met the relatives of Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters to inquire into the security of the United Nations' police files on their case; and if he will make a statement. [4498]

Ian Pearson: The former Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien) met relatives of Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters in September 2003 and March 2004. We have since made representations to both the UN and to the Government of Timor Leste (East Timor) about the future security of these and other files.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the security of the police files of East Timor's Serious Crimes Unit; and if he will make a statement. [4499]

Ian Pearson: We have not made an assessment of the security of the files held by the Serious Crimes Unit in Dili, East Timor. We understand that the UN will be advising how it believes the case documents should be handled in future. We have recently made clear to the UN in East Timor and to the Government of Timor Leste (East Timor) the importance we attach to the security of this information.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what correspondence he has had with Indonesia's *(a)* Foreign Minister and *(b)* ambassador regarding the case of Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters; and if he will make a statement. [4500]

Ian Pearson: This case was raised in 2004 by the former Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien), with both Indonesia's Foreign Minister and the then Indonesian ambassador.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the British police regarding their involvement in the case of British citizens Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters; and if he will make a statement. [4501]

Ian Pearson: The British police have not been involved in this case, although we understand a British police officer was at one time a temporary member of the UN civilian police detachment in East Timor.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in persuading the Indonesian authorities to bring to trial in Indonesia or to extradite to East Timor those Indonesian military officers from Indonesia's Battalion 745 who have been indicted by East Timor's Serious Crime Unit for the murder of *Financial Times* journalist Sander Thoenes; and if he will make a statement. [4502]

Ian Pearson: The death of Sander Thoenes, a Dutch journalist working for the *Financial Times* killed in East Timor in 1999, fell within the remit of the Serious Crimes Unit in Dili, East Timor, and has been investigated by them. We understand that no further progress has been made in bringing anyone to trial.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in persuading Indonesian authorities to investigate crimes committed by the Indonesian Army's Battalion 745 *(a)* on 21 September 1999, including the attack on Sunday Times journalist Jon Swain and his three companions and *(b)* during other stages of the Battalion's withdrawal from East Timor in 1999; and if he will make a statement. [4503]

Ian Pearson: Human rights violations committed in 1999 in East Timor have been investigated by both the Serious Crimes Unit in Dili and the ad hoc tribunal in Jakarta. Further information may result from the work of the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation established by Indonesia and East Timor and due to start work by August 2005.

Electoral Reform (Africa)

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government have made to the Tanzanian Government in relation to ensuring peaceful, fair and transparent elections to both Tanzanian assemblies in October. [4349]

Ian Pearson: We are in regular touch with the Governments of Tanzania and Zanzibar, and the opposition, on the importance of peaceful, fair and transparent elections. The UK co-chairs, along with the National Electoral Commission, a Steering Committee which is supporting the electoral process on the mainland, and to which we have contributed approximately £800,000. We are also funding implementation of the Muafaka Agreement, aimed at promoting reconciliation between the two main political parties on Zanzibar and working towards peaceful and credible elections there.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government have made to the Government in Cote D'Ivoire in relation to *(a)* respecting its commitments fully to implement the provisions of the Pretoria Agreement and *(b)* ensuring the elections in October are free from intimidation, fair and transparent. [4350]

Ian Pearson: We welcomed and supported United Nations Security Council Resolution 1603, passed unanimously on 3 June 2005, demanding that all signatories to the Pretoria agreement and all the Ivorian parties concerned implement it fully and without delay, and demanding that all the Ivorian parties take all necessary steps to ensure that the forthcoming general elections are free, fair and transparent.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo concerning *(a)* the constitutional reform process, *(b)* the next phase of the transition arrangements and *(c)* ensuring that the forthcoming referendum, presidential and legislative elections are transparent, free and fair. [4351]

Ian Pearson: We and international partners worked closely with members of the Congolese Government and Parliament on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s new constitution before its adoption on 16 May 2005. We continue to press the DRC Government and Independent Electoral Commission to establish soon a realistic electoral calendar and begin voter registration. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, made these points to the President of the Congolese Parliament on 25 May 2005. We have contributed £5 million to the United Nations Trust Fund supporting elections, as part of a wider package. We are discussing with partners how best to ensure the security and integrity of these elections.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Uganda concerning *(a)* the proposed constitutional reforms dealing with removing limits on multi-party politics and presidential terms and *(b)* ensuring that the forthcoming referendum, presidential and legislative elections are transparent, free and fair. [4352]

Ian Pearson: We have repeatedly underlined our support for a return to multiparty politics, and for a free and fair referendum and elections. We hold regular meetings with Ugandan Ministers to discuss the political situation, including the transition, the forthcoming referendum and the elections due next March. The high commissioner has also raised these issues directly with President Museveni, and last did so when they met on 28 May 2005.

EU Constitution

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work is being done by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the EU Commission on proposals for (i) an EU Diplomatic Service, (ii) an EU President, (iii) an EU Foreign Minister, (iv) an EU Defence Agency and (v) implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; what the legal basis is in each case; and when work began. [3986]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* There have been official level discussions between member states, the Commission and the Council Secretariat on preparations for a "European External Action Service" since October 2004. No conclusions have been drawn. The Commission and the High Representative have produced an "issues paper" and progress report on the European External Action

Service. This preparatory work was specifically requested by the Heads of State and Government in October 2004 and December 2004.

No work has been undertaken by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office regarding the proposed posts of the European Council President and EU Foreign Minister beyond internal analysis of the implications of these proposals for the UK. It is not for the Government to comment on any internal work by the Commission on either of these two posts.

The European Defence Agency was established in June 2004 under the provisions of the Treaty on European Union following the unanimous agreement of Heads of State and Government in June 2003. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office contributes to the work of the Ministry of Defence in agreeing work plans for the European Defence Agency. A representative of the European Commission is a member of the European Defence Agency Steering Board, and the Agency liaises with the Commission in its work on the European defence industry and security research.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights would be implemented in the UK by the Bill proposed to give effect to the Constitutional Treaty (the European Union Bill). The Government's current intentions with regard to that Bill were set out by the Foreign Secretary in his statement to the House on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 991–92, on the EU Constitutional Treaty.

EU Directives

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the EU Directive on Services. [4218]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Negotiations on the draft Directive for Services in the Internal Market are still at an early stage. The proposal is currently being debated in the European Parliament, which is due to complete its First Reading in early autumn. We then expect a revised Commission proposal which will form the basis for further negotiations. The UK remains a strong supporter of the Directive—we will continue to work with the Commission, the Parliament and EU partners to produce a measure that opens up the European services market and reduces barriers to business across the continent.

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is regarding *(a)* the country of origin principle and *(b)* the freedom of establishment principle within the EU directive on services. [4219]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK strongly supports the Directive on Services in the Internal Market—there is vast untapped potential in the services sector, which accounts for over two-thirds of EU Gross Domestic Product.

The country of origin principle is an important means to facilitate the temporary provision of services across borders. This is of particular relevance to small businesses, which need to be able to enter new markets on a temporary basis without committing themselves to the full costs of establishment.

The UK strongly supports proposals in the draft directive for simplifying administrative procedures and screening authorisations for establishment. These measures will reduce bureaucracy, make it easier for service providers to become established in other member states, and complement the EU and UK better regulation agenda.

Europe Directorate Budget

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the Europe Directorate's budget for developing a longer-term communications strategy for financial year 2004–05 has been spent; what work has been completed; what further work is planned; and if he will make a statement on the Government's long-term communications strategy for informing the public about the EU, including the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe. [1212]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement made to the House on the EU Constitutional Treaty on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 991–92.

All of the money allocated for developing a longer-term communications strategy in financial year 2004–05 has been spent. The money has been used to develop a communications strategy on the EU. No final decisions have yet been made on communication activities on the EU Constitutional Treaty for financial year 2005–06.

Honorary Consul (Antananarivo)

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he intends to maintain the position of honorary consul in Antananarivo; and if he will make a statement. [4604]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced on 15 December 2004, *Official report*, columns 137–140WS that the British embassy in Antananarivo will close shortly After closure relations with Madagascar will be covered from our High Commission in Port Louis, Mauritius. We intend to appoint an honorary consul in Antananarivo.

Lebanon

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to hold discussions with the Lebanese authorities following the recent elections there. [3096]

Dr. Howells: There are no plans for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to hold discussions with the Lebanese authorities once the elections are completed there on 19 June. However, our embassy in Beirut has regular contact with representatives of the Lebanese authorities, and I spoke briefly with Foreign Minister Hammoud during the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership ministerial meeting in Luxembourg, and hope to see the Lebanese ambassador later this month.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the

private finance initiative and public private partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2371]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has two private finance initiatives and one public private partnership arrangement in place.

Private Finance Initiatives:

1. Global Crossing—Provision of a worldwide telecommunications network for a term of ten years from 10 May 2000. The total estimated value of the contract is £236 million. The present unitary payment charged to the operating cost statement is £25 million per annum. This is an off-balance sheet charge and can be viewed in the FCO 2003–04 Resource Accounts on the FCO websiteathttp://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/KFile/FCOResourceAccounts200304,0.pdf

2. Arteos—In respect of the building, operation and maintenance of the British embassy in Berlin for a term of 30 years from 23 June 1998 with an option to extend for a further 30 years. The total estimated value of the contract over its lifetime is £131.5 million. The current unitary payment is £4.5 million per annum. This is mainly an on-balance sheet charge and can be viewed in the FCO 2003–04 Resource Accounts on the FCO website at http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/KFile/FCOResourceAccounts200304,0.pdf

Public Private Partnership:

3. Hewlett Packard—The FCO awarded a contract to Hewlett Packard in February 2005 to become the FCO's strategic partner for the provision of its global IT infrastructure. The value of the contract is £179 million over seven years.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3532]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has just published a revised Race Equality Scheme 2005–08 which is available on our website, www.fco.gov.uk. This scheme sets out how the FCO will meet its obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, and lists the FCO's non-departmental public bodies to whom the RR(A)A applies.

Russia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are being taken to help Russia secure its *(a)* nuclear material and *(b)* facilities against terrorism. [4632]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is currently implementing a series of projects under the Global Partnership programme to enhance security of nuclear materials across the former Soviet Union (FSU). In addition to projects already completed at the Atomflot port in Murmansk, negotiations are under way to support an enhanced physical protection programme at the Nikiet Institute in Moscow. Further discussions are underway with the Russian authorities to identify potential future projects for UK support. The planned budget for nuclear security work under the Global Partnership is £4 million for this financial year.

A number of other countries involved in the Global Partnership programme, most notably the US, Canada and Germany have portfolios of projects to address security of nuclear materials and facilities. The UK is working closely with these and other countries to maximise the impact of our assistance, for example through increasing the focus on nuclear security in the G8 Nuclear Safety and Security Group which is currently under UK chairmanship.

Sierra Leone

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received a report from the UK high commission in Sierra Leone relating to the work of that country's anti-corruption commission; and if he will make a statement. [3931]

Ian Pearson: We receive regular reports from the high commission on the anti-corruption commission's progress. We also receive the commission's annual reports. The commission has a vital role to play in co-ordinating the Government's efforts to detect and prevent corruption. The UK, at the request of the Government of Sierra Leone, helped to establish the commission. We are its main external supporter, providing funds and specialist expatriate staff.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission as soon as it is made available to him; and if he will make a statement. [3932]

Ian Pearson: As soon as the full report of the commission is published, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK plans to make to *(a)* witness protection and *(b)* an effective investigation team in the recently announced International Criminal Court case regarding genocide, war crimes and crime against humanity in Darfur. [3094]

Ian Pearson: The Government concluded a general agreement in 2004 with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to provide witness protection services at the request of the Court.

The Court will carry out its investigations in Darfur and elsewhere in an entirely independent capacity. In order to respect this independence, and to protect the integrity of the Court's operations, it would not be appropriate to comment on the operational aspects of specific ICC investigations; nor to reveal what support the UK is providing. The UK remains ready to consider any specific request put forward by the Court.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the decision to pursue a case against alleged perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur through the International Criminal Court. [3095]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary held numerous discussions with a number of Security Council foreign ministers, including with his

US counterpart, in the weeks preceding the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1593 which referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court. The US abstained, but did not veto this resolution, and has made clear its strong support for putting on trial those allegedly responsible for serious international crimes in Darfur.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action the UK is taking to deal with the situation in Darfur. [3295]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* We are gravely concerned by the situation in Darfur and are playing a leading role in pressing for peace there. We were closely involved in the recent Security Council resolutions on Sudan, which extended the arms embargo in Darfur to the Government of Sudan and imposed sanctions against individuals who violate human rights and obstruct the peace process. We sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1593, which referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court.

The African Union (AU) mission in Darfur is having a positive impact on security there and we fully support their decision to expand the mission to over 7,000 personnel. We have committed more than £20 million to the AU to date, mainly in logistical support, including delivery of nearly 600 vehicles.

Since October 2003 we have provided more than £74 million in humanitarian aid to Darfur, making us the second largest bilateral donor. We have set aside £119.5 million for our work in Sudan this financial year.

We will continue to press all sides to reach a political settlement for Darfur. To this end, we welcome the resumption of the Abuja peace talks. A UK representative will attend the talks on their resumption, and will provide advice to the parties in support of the AU's mediation work.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the leaders of the Arab League to take steps to assist in resolving the situation in Darfur. [3655]

Ian Pearson: The UK is greatly concerned about the crisis in Darfur. We are urging all sides to work together to find a political solution to the conflict. We regularly press other members of the international community, including the Arab League, to do what they can to support the African Union (AU) mediation at the Darfur peace talks in Abuja, and to use their influence with the parties to get them to engage constructively in political dialogue. To this end, we welcome the recent Heads of State Darfur summit in Tripoli, at which Egypt, Libya, Chad, Nigeria and Gabon called for the resumption of peace talks, and secured the commitment of the Government of Sudan to attend and engage in good faith. We welcome the resumption, on 10 June, of peace talks in Abuja. A UK Representative is present to provide support to the parties.

Uganda

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the outcome of the recent London debate on the constitutional amendment in Uganda. [4075]

Ian Pearson: It is important that any constitutional changes have the genuine confidence of the people and their representatives. We therefore welcome public debate of this kind. We continue to urge the Government of Uganda to ensure that all political change, including amendments to the Constitution, follows the procedures set out in the Constitution, respects the rule of law and institutions of governance, and is free from physical intimidation or manipulation.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the steps taken by the Government of Uganda to deal with institutional corruption in that country. [4077]

Ian Pearson: We welcome the publication of the Government of Uganda's 2005 National Strategy to Fight Corruption, which acknowledges that corruption is a serious problem in Uganda. Progress has been made in establishing the basic institutional and legislative framework. The UK has been providing practical support for these government led initiatives. But more remains to be done. For example, there has been little follow through on any of the recent Commissions of Inquiry related to corruption issues.

Uzbekistan

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United States Administration regarding the human rights record of the Government of Uzbekistan. [2627]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 17 May 2005 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed recent events in Andijan with US Secretary of State Rice in Washington. Like the UK, the US has condemned reports of the Uzbek Government's disproportionate use of force in Andijan and has called for an independent, international investigation into Andijan. On 8 June 2005 the State Department press spokesman, Sean McCormack, noted that there had been many reliable eyewitness accounts of Uzbek forces shooting civilians, and that it was now clear hundreds of innocent civilians had been killed. He also reiterated the US call for an independent, international investigation, stating that it was important

> "to find out what happened, so the Uzbek people know, so the world knows, and so that something like this does not happen again."

Visas

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many individuals were refused visas to visit the UK from *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Bangladesh and *(d)* Jamaica in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) gender, (ii) age and (iii) marital status. [3431]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas does not hold statistics about visit visas in the categories requested. The number of visit visas to the UK applied for and refused during 2003–04, was as follows:

Visit visas	April 2003 to March 2004 Received	Refused
India	232,519	36,631
Pakistan	83,566	9,032
Bangladesh	24,839	9,839
Jamaica	23,552	10,412

Figures for April 2004 to March 2005 are not yet available. When they are, they can be found, along with further entry clearance statistics, on the UKvisas website at www.ukvisas.gov.uk—"Entry Clearance: Facts and Figures".

Weapons Testing (Syria/Iran)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the Syrian missile tests on 27 May and *(b)* the Iranian announcement on 31 May that it had successfully tested a solid fuel motor for the Shahab 3 missile; and if he will make a statement. [3108]

Dr. Howells: Syria has said that the firing of three SCUD missiles, one of which exploded with debris landing in Syria, Turkey and the Mediterranean, was a test of its defensive weapons systems. We do not believe that this represents an attempt by Syria to develop an offensive missile capability.

We are aware of reports that Iran claims to have tested a solid fuel motor for their Shahab 3 missile. Iran's ballistic missile programme remains an issue of serious concern for us and for the international community.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the UK's relations with Zimbabwe. [2846]

Ian Pearson: The United Kingdom has a long and deep relationship with Zimbabwe and its people. We maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of Zimbabwe, including embassies in respective capitals, to promote reform and convey directly our concerns, shared by many in the international community, about the dire situation in the country and the misrule of the current Government. The current crackdown in Zimbabwe is the latest example of the regime's lack of respect for individuals' welfare or human rights. On 2 June the British ambassador raised our protest directly with the Vice President.

But our relations go well beyond governmental contact, and include support to civil society and £71 million of humanitarian assistance provided since September 2001. This includes programmes to help orphans, vulnerable children and pregnant mothers. Department for International Development are presently responding to the current crisis by providing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable, mainly through the UN and International Organisation for Migration. To date, over 5,000 families have been reached with food, blankets, soap and other forms of assistance. Where appropriate, transport, emergency water and sanitation has been provided.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of South Africa concerning the sale of Alouette helicopter spares to Zimbabwe. [3797]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The British High Commission in Pretoria has raised this issue with the South African Government and reiterated British Government concerns over the supply of any military equipment that may be used for internal repression in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made in response to the Zimbabwean police force's expressed intention to use force during the National Strike to be held on 9 and 10 June 2005. [3925]

Ian Pearson: The British ambassador in Harare condemned the brutal actions of the authorities throughout the recent crackdown in Zimbabwe when he met with Vice President Joyce Mujuru and, separately, Didymus Mutasa, Minister of State for National Security, on 2 and 3 June 2005 respectively. The European Union has also condemned these actions. We continue to monitor the situation on the ground and will consider further protests to the Zimbabwean authorities should the actions of the Zimbabwean police force during the national strike warrant them.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made in relation to the Zimbabwean Government's slum clearance campaign. [3926]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave today to the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight (Mr. Turner), (UIN 3763).

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what new academies are proposed to be built; and what stage discussions with sponsors and local education authorities have reached to date. [4236]

Jacqui Smith: There are 17 open Academies with 10 more set to open in September 2005. There are currently proposals for a further 38 Academies being developed. Of these 38 there are 27 Academies that are in the stage of implementation, meaning that a Funding Agreement has been signed between the Secretary of State for Education and skills and the sponsor to establish and maintain the Academy. There are a further 21 projects in the stage of feasibility testing, where the Department investigates and consults whether an Academy is appropriate in an area once a sponsor has been selected and the LEA confirms it wishes to be involved.

In addition there are around 140 projects in early stages of development where the Department explores whether an Academy can be established in an area in partnership with an LEA and/or predecessor school.

Access Agreements

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many access agreements have been completed between the Office of Fair Access and higher education institutions in England; and if she will place copies of each such agreement in the Library. [3982]

Bill Rammell: 120 such access agreements have been completed with higher education institutions, plus 34 agreements with further education colleges. Copies of all finalised agreements are available on the Office of Fair Access website, www.offa.org.uk

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the deadline is for the conclusion of access agreements between the Office for Fair Access and those higher education institutions in England intending to charge the maximum tuition fees from 2006. [3983]

Bill Rammell: The Office for Fair Access has not set any strict deadlines around the completion of access agreements. It would expect all agreements for 2006 to have been completed in time for institutions to tell prospective students about bursary arrangements before the start of the UCAS application cycle in September 2005, for entry in September 2006.

Action Zones (Pupil Achievement)

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 468–69W, on action zones (pupil achievement), what assessment she has made of the research to which she refers. [4905]

Jacqui Smith: Research evidence was considered by Ministers and officials and taken in to account as we reviewed the effectiveness of the Education Action Zones (EAZs). Many of the recommendations were used to inform policy development, especially as the EAZs reached the end of their statutory lifespan and they have been transformed into either an Excellence Cluster (where a zone was not in an EiC area) or an EiC Action Zone (where they were in an EiC area). This has enabled us to develop a more focused strategy with a less bureaucratic structure.

Adult Education Funding

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the change in the number of *(a)* adult education classes and *(b)* adult education places as a result of the budget allocations agreed by her Department and the Learning and Skills Council in the academic year 2005/06. [3241]

Bill Rammell: Government have been clear about their priorities for adult further education and public funding will increasingly focus on ensuring adults are able to gain a platform of skills for employability. In line with these priorities, state funded adult learner numbers in Skills for Life and full Level 2 courses are expected to continue to increase in 2005/06. However, the Skills Strategy set out the need to rebalance the contributions of Government, individuals and employers towards the costs of learning and we support the case for charging higher fees for provision outside these priority areas, particularly for better qualified learners, for those studying for pleasure or personal development, and for employers. Colleges and other providers must decide how they can best raise income from non-government sources to support the continued provision of a broad range of courses for adults.

Bullying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Behaviour Improvement Programme on *(a)* behaviour, *(b)* bullying, *(c)* antisocial behaviour, *(d)* attendance and *(e)* truancy. [4903]

Jacqui Smith: In his 2003/04 annual report, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools said that

> "The government's Behaviour Improvement Programme is effective in the large majority of schools in which it is in place".

My Department has commissioned the London University Institute of Education to carry out a detailed evaluation of the programme. The results will be published this autumn.

Child Care

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to raise the proportion of child care workers who are male. [4722]

Maria Eagle: We have been running a national recruitment campaign since 2000 to encourage people to consider working in child care. Within the campaign, we have targeted those under-represented in the child care workforce, including men, through a range of initiatives. We have, for example, produced a video for men considering working in child care and our latest press advertising campaign features a case study about a male child carer. We have also commissioned the Daycare Trust to work with local authorities to enhance their efforts to promote the recruitment of men in their local labour markets.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the cost to local authorities of the implementation of the Childcare Bill's new duties for local authorities. [4378]

Beverley Hughes: We shall shortly be undertaking a consultation exercise on the content of the Childcare Bill to be introduced in the autumn. As part of the consultation we will produce a Regulatory Impact Assessment which will include details of costings.

Children's Fund

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the allocation from the Children's Fund was in each of the last four financial years *(a)* in total and *(b)* for each recipient authority. [4362]

Beverley Hughes: There are 149 Children's Fund partnerships based in each local authority area in England, responsible for delivering a range of preventive services for children and young people aged 5–13. The fund was rolled out in three waves from April 2001 to March 2005 onwards and I have placed in the

Library a full list of allocations made to Children's Fund partnerships, totalling well over £500 million for that period.

Following the last Spending Review, Children's Fund partnerships have been allocated £411.5 million over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08.

Departmental Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many trade union learning representatives there are in her Department. [3310]

Maria Eagle: My Department currently has five trade union learning representatives, with provision for a further 15 and one full-time union learning representative co-ordinator, yet to be appointed. Trade union representatives carry out their union duties in addition to their normal job roles.

Family Resolutions Project

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimates her Department had made of the number of likely participants prior to the setting up of the Family Resolutions Project; [4686]

(2) what the estimated costs of running the Family Resolutions Project are; [4687]

(3) how many parents have taken part in the Family Resolutions Pilot Project to date; and how many have accepted mediation services as part of the project. [4688]

Maria Eagle: During the design phase of Family Resolutions it was estimated that up to 1,000 parental couples could be eligible for consideration as participants in the Family Resolutions Pilot Project during a full year of operation. However, the number referred to the project has to date been significantly lower, due to a number of factors. These include there being a lower than expected number of applications to the participating courts; the exclusion of cases where harm is a factor and the refusal of some parents to participate. As at 14 June 2005, 47 couples have participated in the pilot and, of these, 23 couples have participated in the Parent Planning session.

Family Resolutions does not offer mediation as part of its services. Instead, in the Parent Planning session, couples, with the aid of a CAFCASS adviser and the Parenting Plans, are enabled to seek agreement about the practicalities of contact and other post-separation parenting arrangements

The costs of setting up and running the pilot project were estimated at £300,000 over one year for the three pilot areas; exact costs cannot be confirmed until the pilot is complete, after September 2005. To date, £173,669 has been spent.

Forecasts (16 to 18-year-olds)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the projected *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds participating in (i) education, (ii) training and (iii) employment in the UK is for each year between 2005 and 2010; and what the figures were for each year from 1994 to 2004. [3052]

Jacqui Smith: The Department only holds information for participation estimates and their projections at England level. Participation rates and projections in other countries of the UK are matters for the respective devolved authorities.

The numbers and the percentages of 16 to 18-year-olds in education, training and employment from end 1994 to end 2003 are shown in the following table. The education and training information is split into those young people participating in full-time education and training which includes LSC funded work-based learning (WBL), employer funded training (EFT) and other education and training (OET). The participation projections between end 2004 and end 2007 are also given in the table. Projections after end 2007 will be constructed as part of the 2006 spending review. Projections are not made of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds in employment.

Participation in education and training of 16 to 18-year-olds by labour market status, England, 1994 to 2003[1]

	Participation estimates as at end of the calendar years:				
All in age group (number, thousand)	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Full-time education	921	957	1,000	1,010	999
Work Based Learning (WBL)[2]	184	174	178	177	173
Employer Funded Training (EFT)[3]	88	85	93	102	105
Other education and training (OET)[4]	83	79	91	99	96
Total education and training[5]	1,262	1,284	1,352	1,380	1,366
In employment[6]	221	234	239	270	265
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)[7]	142	151	158	157	173
Total	1,625	1,668	1,749	1,806	1,804
All in age group (percentage)					
Full-time education	57	57	57	56	55
Work Based Learning (WBL)[2]	11	10	10	10	10
Employer Funded Training (EFT)[3]	5	5	5	6	6
Other education and training (OET)[4]	5	5	5	5	5
Total education and training[5]	78	77	77	76	76
In employment[6]	14	14	14	15	15
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)[7]	9	9	9	9	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100

	Participation estimates as at end of the calendar years:				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 provisional
All in age group (number, thousand)					
Full-time education	1,007	1,011	1,027	1,057	1,083
Work Based Learning (WBL)[2]	167	167	157	151	160
Employer Funded Training (EFT)[3]	102	88	95	100	104
Other education and training (OET)[4]	91	100	107	104	105
Total education and training[5]	1,364	1,362	1,383	1,409	1,449
In employment[6]	276	262	287	298	298
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)[7]	147	166	179	186	182
Total	1,786	1,790	1,849	1,893	1,929
All in age group (percentage)					
Full-time education	56	56	56	56	56
Work Based Learning (WBL)[2]	9	9	8	8	8
Employer Funded Training (EFT)[3]	6	5	5	5	5
Other education and training (OET)[4]	5	6	6	5	5
Total education and training[5]	76	76	75	74	75
In employment[6]	15	15	16	16	15
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)[7]	8	9	10	10	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100

	Participation projections:			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
All in age group (number, thousand)				
Full-time education	1,132	1,172	1,198	1,216
Work Based Learning (WBL)[2]	166	173	184	195
Employer Funded Training (EFT)[3]	99	94	91	88
Other education and training (OET)[4]	98	93	90	87
Total education and training[5]	1,492	1,529	1,560	1,582
In employment[6]	—	—	—	—
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)[7]	—	—	—	—
Total	1,950	1,966	1,983	1,991
All in age group (percentage)				
Full-time education	58	60	60	61
Work Based Learning (WBL)[2]	9	9	9	10
Employer Funded Training (EFT)[3]	5	5	5	4
Other education and training (OET)[4]	5	5	5	4
Total education and training[5]	77	78	79	79
In employment[6]	—	—	—	—
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)[7]	—	—	—	—
Total	100	100	100	100

[1] Participation estimates may be slightly underestimated for 16-year-olds between 1999 and 2000; 17-year-olds between 2000 and 2001; and 18-year-olds 2001 and 2002.
See paragraphs 9–11 of SFR 03/2005 for further information.
[2] Includes a small number of 16 to 18-year-olds who are also doing full-time education. Includes part-time education funded through WBL.
[3] Includes part-time education funded by employers.
[4] Includes part-time education not funded by employers or through WBL; also full-time or part-time education in independent FE and HE institutions.
[5] Total of all full-time education and WBL (less WBL in full-time education) plus EFT and OET.
[6] The remainder of the age group who are in employment but not in any form of education or training.
[7] The remainder of the age group who are ILO unemployed or economically inactive and not in any form of education or training.
Source:
DfES SFR 03/2005—Participation in education, training and employment by 16 to 18-year-olds in England: 1985 to 2003 (Revised) and DfES participation projections for 16 to 18-year-olds

Fostering

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to encourage an increased number of foster carers; and how much her Department has spent on recruitment campaigns to encourage people to become foster carers in the last five years. [4463]

Maria Eagle: Funding of £113 million has been made available from 2003–04 to 2005–06 through the Choice Protects programme to support local authorities in improving placement choice for their looked after children—in particular through strengthening and expanding their fostering services, including by recruiting greater numbers of foster carers. Of this amount, a total of £7.25 million has been retained over the three years of the grant to fund national initiatives, including measures to support the recruitment and retention of foster carers. These include the establishment of a new national advice line for foster carers, a new national awards ceremony, measures to improve the support given to foster carers who are subject to allegations as well as work to improve training opportunities for foster carers.

In addition, my Department has funded a number of initiatives to support the recruitment activities of local authorities. We have funded the production of a Fostering Publicity Pack, at a cost of £100,000, designed to help local authorities to run targeted local campaigns to recruit new foster carers. We have awarded a three

year grant of £180,000 to The Fostering Network to support 'Fostercare Fortnight', which has a particular focus on recruitment, and we have recently awarded a two year grant to The Fostering Network of £80,000 to look at innovation in foster care recruitment. These steps, aimed at supporting recruitment at a local level, follow on from a national recruitment campaign undertaken by the National Foster Carer Association on behalf of the Department, in 2000, in which £2 million was invested.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on Government plans to tighten safeguards protecting the welfare of privately fostered children. [4723]

Maria Eagle: The Government plan to enhance and strengthen the private fostering notification under the Children Act 1989 through new measures in the Children Act 2004 and underpinning regulations, which come into force on 1 July 2005.

The new measures will require local authorities to promote public awareness in their area of the requirements as to notification; to satisfy themselves of the suitability of a proposed arrangement before it commences, where advance notification is given; and to monitor the way in which they discharge their Children Act 1989 functions in relation to private fostering, and to appoint an officer of the authority for that purpose.

The new measures, along with National Minimum Standards, are expected to focus local authorities' attention on private fostering by requiring them to take a more proactive approach to identifying arrangements in their area. The new measures are also expected to improve notification rates and compliance with the existing legislative framework for private fostering, and significantly to increase the number of arrangements checked out before a child begins to be privately fostered.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has to provide privately fostered children with greater access to their social workers. [4724]

Maria Eagle: Under the existing private fostering regulations (the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 1991) local authorities are already required to make arrangements for each child who is privately fostered within their area to be visited by an officer of the authority when reasonably requested by the child (or private foster carer) and, in particular, in the first year of the private fostering arrangement, within one week from its beginning and then at intervals of not more than six weeks and in any second or subsequent year, at intervals of not more than three months.

This requirement is reproduced and extended in the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005, which replace the 1991 regulations and come into force on 1 July 2005. The 2005 regulations also require the local authority to arrange for a privately fostered child to be visited when reasonably requested to do so by a parent of the child, or any other person with parental responsibility for him or her. Further, these regulations also require the local authority to visit a privately fostered child at least every six weeks during the first year after it becomes aware that a private fostering arrangement is in place.

In addition, under the 2005 regulations, on receipt of a notification of a proposal to foster a child privately, local authorities will be required to arrange for an officer to visit and speak to the child within seven working days of such a notification being received, among other things to establish the wishes and feelings of the child about the proposed arrangement (considered in the light of his or her age and understanding).

Grammar Schools (Buckinghamshire)

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in each *(a)* grammar school and *(b)* upper school in Buckinghamshire achieved each (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level grade in each year since 2001, broken down by ethnic group. [3233]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Higher Education

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representatives she will send to the Higher Education Funding Council Conference on rates of participation in higher education on 15 June in Birmingham; and if she will make a statement. [4333]

Bill Rammell: The Department will not be sending a representative to this meeting although officials are aware of its purpose, which we understand is to explore the reasons behind the low participation in higher education (HE) rates for three constituencies and to agree how these rates might be improved. The Department will be kept informed of and where appropriate involved in the outcomes of the 15 June meeting in Birmingham. The Government remain committed to widening participation in HE for all those who have the merit and potential to benefit from it, regardless of background. Much of the Government's reforms of HE over the last year has widening participation at its heart and we look forward to seeing improvements in participation rates as a result.

Key Stage Learning

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the research commissioned by Professor David Jesson of York University on the achievement at Key Stage 4 of children with high levels of attainment at Key Stage 2. [4233]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 474–75W.

Learning Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the difference is between learning by heart multiplication facts, as required by the

Framework for Teaching Mathematics: Reception to Year 6 document, and learning by heart multiplication tables. [4432]

Jacqui Smith: The Primary National Strategy stresses the importance of learning multiplication 'facts' (such as 8 x 7 = 56) which are bought together in multiplication tables. Acquiring these facts is a core part of children's mathematical education, and helps deepen their mathematical understanding, for example, enabling them to make the link between multiplication and division. Teaching multiplication tables can be used as a key means of ensuring that children learn multiplication facts.

Personalised Learning

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if she will make a statement on progress on introducing personalised learning for secondary school pupils; [3785]

(2) when she expects all secondary school pupils to have access to a personalised package of learning; [3786]

(3) what role her Department will play in implementing personalised packages of learning for secondary school pupils; [3831]

(4) whether the Department will introduce targets for the implementation of personalised packages of learning; [3832]

(5) what assessment she has made of the *(a)* financial and *(b)* personnel resources needed to introduce personalised packages of learning for secondary school pupils; [3833]

(6) what assessment she has made of the training required for teachers to introduce personalised packages of learning for secondary school pupils; and what plans she has to implement this. [3834]

Jacqui Smith: Through the Five Year Strategy for Children and Learning and the 14–19 White Paper we have embarked on an ambitious long-term agenda to personalise the education system to meet the needs of all pupils. A central element of that is the idea of "Personalised Learning"—tailoring educational provision to individual needs, interests and aptitudes so that every young person can receive a personalised package of learning and support to enable them to fulfil their potential.

Personalised learning has five key components that offer a framework for implementation:

assessment for learning;

effective teaching and learning strategies;

curriculum entitlement, choice and flexibility;

school organisation for personalisation;

partnership beyond the school to remove barriers to learning.

Personalised Learning is not new, nor is it a discreet package or programme to be delivered in isolation. Many schools and teachers have tailored the curriculum and teaching methods to meet the needs of pupils with great success for many years. We will continue to support schools through the continuous professional development provision provided by the National Strategies, our workforce remodelling and forthcoming curricula reforms.

Prison Education

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many prisoners are registered on prison education programmes. [4417]

Phil Hope: The Prison Service does not collect centrally individual information on prisoners participating in learning and skills through its contracts with education providers.

However, a 2003 report published by the Learning and Skills Development Agency ("Education, Training, Assessment and Learner Support in HM Prisons and Young Offender Institutions"), found that 39 per cent. of prisoners were engaged in education and training.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what was the *(a)* target for and *(b)* number of offenders acquiring (i) Basic Skills Level 1, (ii) Basic Skills Level 2, (iii) Basic Skills Level 3, (iv) Basic Skills Level 4 and (v) Basic Skills Level 5 in each year since 2002. [4494]

Phil Hope: Since 2002, targets and achievement by offenders of awards in literacy, language and numeracy at entry level, level one and level two in prisons in England and Wales, have been:

Custody	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Entry Level Target	6,000	7,749	16,970
Entry Level Achievement	9,181	13,500	22,301
Level 1 Target	12,000	14,462	23,430
Level 1 Achievement	16,991	18,911	25,371
Level 2 Target	10,800	14,420	15,600
Level 2 Achievement	15,147	14,233	15,875

For offenders in the community, the National Probation Service collects information on the number of offenders taking up a basic skills course as well as the number of literacy, language and numeracy awards that offenders in the community achieve. Targets are not broken down by level of award. Since 2002–03, targets and achievement have been as follows:

Community	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Basic skills 'starts' target	6,000	16,000	32,000
Basic skills 'starts' achievement	5,983	14,971	34,199
Basic skills awards target	1,000	4,000	8,000
Basic skills awards achievement	848	2,815	9,451

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what target has been set by Offenders' Learning and Skills in relation to the number of prisoners undertaking Open University degrees by 2006; what progress has been made towards that target; and what resources have been made available to realise the target. [4495]

Phil Hope: There is no target for Open University participation by offender learners.

However, we have provided funding to increase the number of Open University undergraduate places and access courses for offenders in custody from 450 in 2002–03 to 1,100 in 2004–05. In 2005–06 we are providing £1,048,050 in order to support 1,300 Open University undergraduate places and access courses for offender learners in custody.

Pupil Exclusions

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils have been excluded from each school in the Easington constituency in each year since 2000. [3757]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is given in the table. Figures for 2003/04 will be available from 23 June 2005.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools: number and percentage of permanent exclusions 1999/2000 to 2002/03, Easington parliamentary constituency

URN	Establishment name	1999/2000		2000/01[1]		2001–02[2]		2002–03[2]	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Total	14	0.10	14	0.11	11	0.08	15	0.12
114202	Murton Primary School	[3]	[3]	0	0.00	0	0.00	[3]	[3]
114286	Seaham School of Technology	4	0.36	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
114313	Dene Community School of Technology	[3]	[3]	4	0.54	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
114314	Shotton Hall School	4	0.38	[3]	[3]	0	0.00	[3]	[3]
114318	Easington Community School	[3]	[3]	4	0.39	5	0.51	5	0.53
114346	Glendene School	[3]	[3]	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
114145	Haswell Primary School	0	0.00	[3]	[3]	0	0.00	[3]	[3]
114327	Peterlee St. Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School	0	0.00	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	0	0.00

[1] There are known quality issues with exclusions data for these years. Figures shown here are as reported by schools but are unconfirmed and should be used with caution.
[2] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils on the school roll in January of the same school year. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Less than 3, or a rate based on less than 3.
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school age children were permanently excluded for bringing knives or other offensive weapons into schools in each year between 1997–98 and 2004–05. [4259]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is not available.

We have recently started to collect reasons for exclusions. First findings for the 2003/04 academic year will be published in a Statistical First Release on 23 June 2005. This will include information on the number of permanent exclusions by reason, although there will not be a specific category relating to possession of knives and other offensive weapons.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3559]

Maria Eagle: Our ongoing programme of staff awareness training (for all staff) on the Race Relations Amendment Act began before the Act was passed and the specific duties had to be implemented. We continue to offer regularly updated guidance i.e. on line and in person.

We measure the positive impact of mainstreaming equality and diversity throughout our programmes, through data collection and analysing feedback on participation. Key tools to measure progress are the DfES Staff Survey and the Learning Academy evaluation strategy. As part of these we collect and analyse information on the ethnic breakdown of people applying for and taking part in learning activities. If results show disparities, we take action to investigate and, as appropriate, remedy the situation.

Further detail on our approach to monitoring and learning and development can be found on the DfES website in the Race Equality Scheme.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of her Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3560]

Maria Eagle: Our arrangements involve mainstreaming Race Equality Impact Assessments into the policy-making process for all of our programmes and policies. On line guidance is available to policy teams in our equality proofing web tool "Fairway".

DfES provides strategic direction to delivery partners. Our key delivery partners have their own Race Equality Schemes. We require partners who implement DfES policies to fulfil the requirements of the Race Relations Amendment Act.

Further details can be found in the recently published DfES Race Equality Scheme and its summary of Race Equality Impact Assessments on the DfES website.

School Building

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total cost is of projects under waves 1 to 3 of the Building Schools for the Future programme for the special schools sector. [4865]

Jacqui Smith: The local authorities in waves 1 to 3 of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme are all at different stages of developing their proposals.

Costs of each project are only identified as they proceed through procurement and are not finalised until contract signature.

Costs for all special schools in BSF are being reviewed in the context of the current consultation on revised design guidance in the form of Building Bulletin 77: Designing for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Schools. However, we have identified resources to fund the special schools in waves one to three at the new standard, once finalised, from within the BSF budget.

School Meals

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average spending per meal per pupil for school meals was in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hartlepool in the last period for which figures are available. [1816]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not currently collected centrally.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answers of 13 June 2005, ref. 3581, what proportion of the £220 million funding grant to transform school meals is intended for *(a)* food ingredients and *(b)* re-training of school catering staff. [5026]

Jacqui Smith: Over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08, all maintained schools in England will receive a share of the £220 million set aside to help local education authorities and schools strengthen their support for healthy eating and to provide better quality food. Of this, £30 million each year will go to schools. This money will not be ring-fenced, but it is intended to help meet transitional costs involved in developing and improving their "whole school" approach to food. This might include, for example, revisiting the whole school approach, reviewing meals provision, retraining school meals staff or preparing for "healthy schools" accreditation.

£30/50/50 million will go to LEAs, ring-fenced for improving the quality of school meals and other food provided by schools, with an emphasis on supporting schools in deprived areas and schools starting from a low base. The first call on this money will be transition funding to help schools provide meals with ingredients costing 50p or more in primary schools, and 60p or more in secondary schools.

The first instalment of this additional funding will be available to schools and LEAs this autumn. Further details about the distribution of both grants between individual LEAs and schools will be announced over the summer.

School Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she will take to make parents partners in raising school standards. [3839]

Jacqui Smith: There is a wealth of evidence that parental involvement in their children's education (in the form of good parenting in the home) has a strong and positive impact on their child's education, even controlling for other factors that influence attainment such as social class. Since 1997, we have sought to enhance parental involvement in children's learning through a range of measures targeted at parents and schools. These include information for parents such as videos, DVDs, the "Learning Journey" guides, the Parents Centre website, and funding for help lines offering advice on educational issues; and materials for schools such as the "Involving Parents, Raising Achievement" toolkit, and others disseminated through the Primary and Key Stage 3 National Strategies. The Government have elevated the priority of effective parental engagement by requiring all schools to address it explicitly within the self evaluation form that will underpin the new inspection regime to take effect from this autumn. Ofsted inspectors will seek the views of parents and must have regard to those views when conducting an inspection. Inspectors will use this information alongside the evidence provided in the self evaluation form to assess how effectively the school is working in partnership with parents. In assessing the quality of provision, inspectors will also evaluate the involvement of parents in their children's learning and development. The new style inspection reports have been designed with parents' needs specifically in mind.

We are currently considering how we can best capitalise on and further increase the contribution parents make to raising educational standards.

Special Schools

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what longitudinal research her Department has collated on the life time experiences of students who attended specialist schools for moderate learning disabilities and similar students who were included into mainstream schools; and what the basis has been for the closure of moderate learning disabilities schools. [4251]

Maria Eagle: The Department has not investigated the life time experiences of SEN pupils with moderate learning difficulties who attend special schools compared with those who went to mainstream schools. Comparing pupils from the two settings to give a comparison is not a valid exercise as these pupils have different characteristics and needs.

The Department is concerned about the outcomes for pupils who attend special schools and in 1999 commissioned a longitudinal study of pupils with special educational needs leaving compulsory education at the age of 16. About a quarter of the pupils in the study were classified as having moderate learning difficulty.

The study investigated pupils' expectations and aspirations towards transitions and their subsequent experience and attitude toward education, employment and independent living. The first baseline report was published in 2001, with a first follow up report published in 2004. Parents and carers were also interviewed. The final Wave 3 report, based on over a thousand follow up interviews, will be published at the end of July 2005. The Department has used the findings from this study to develop policy to help pupils with Special Educational Needs make successful transitions from school.

Special schools have a role to play in the provision for pupils with special educational needs but school closures are a matter for local provision based on local decision making processes.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the special schools in England, broken down by *(a)* geographical area and *(b)* specialisation. [4671]

Maria Eagle: The requested information has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Student Finance

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what discussions her Department has had with the Open University about the effect of the new student funding system on part-time undergraduate students; [4030]

(2) when she expects the Higher Education Funding Council to announce additional funding for the Open University to compensate for the effects of the new funding regime on part-time undergraduate students. [4839]

Bill Rammell: Over the last 12 months, Ministers and officials have met regularly with the Open University to consider a range of issues, including the changes to the funding system which will be introduced in 2006/07. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has considered representations from the Open University and Birkbeck College for special funding in response to their concerns about the impact of variable fees on large scale providers of part-time undergraduate higher education. The Council announced its findings on 1 March. These included a commitment to develop a widening participation measure, from the 2006/07 academic year, designed to ensure that the most disadvantaged students will continue to be able to study on a part-time basis. Details of the measure will be confirmed by the HEFCE Board in the autumn. Both the Government and HEFCE continue to monitor the sector, holding discussions with the Open University and other institutions, to ensure that available funding is used to support part-time provision in the most effective way.

Teacher Training

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the recent change has been in the resources given by the Teacher Training Agency to the Return to Teaching scheme; and what the change in places available for former teachers on training courses will be; [4506]

(2) what assessment she has made of the contribution retrained former teachers have made to the education system in the last 12 months; [4507]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effect the policy change of the Teacher Training Agency towards the Return to Teaching programme will have on providers of training; [4508]

(4) if she will list the subjects for which the Teacher Training Agency still fund Return to Teaching courses. [4509]

Jacqui Smith: In allocating resources to the Teacher Training Agency, the Secretary of State gives the agency a degree of discretion in how it deploys some of those resources to achieve the recruitment to teacher training and teaching required to meet the targets set it. Each year, the agency considers the data on the enduring challenges to recruitment and adapts its deployment of resources accordingly.

Slow recruitment to the Returners Programme and falling primary vacancies have led the agency to reduce the sums allocated to the Returners Programme for 2005–06, from £5.5 million to just over £3.5 million, with a target of 1,400 places to be filled compared with the 1,547 places filled (from a target of 2000) in 2004–05. It is properly ensuring that resources deployed secure best value for money.

The figures are not yet available on the contribution retrained former teachers have made to the education system in the last 12 months. However, for the 12 months to March 2003, according to the DfES survey data, returning teachers made up 29 per cent. of the total inflows to the work force (12,200 out of a total inflow of 41,900). Of these, 1,586 had attended Returners courses.

Primary Returners course provision has been reduced across the country. Every provider successfully running a course in 2004–05 has a course programme, although the numbers of courses commissioned from some providers has been reduced, to ensure better value for money.

The TTA are still funding both primary and secondary courses. The subjects offered include all secondary subjects, but providers are asked to prioritise shortage subjects such as maths, science and modern languages.

Tennis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Government have to encourage schools to develop and promote tennis. [4580]

Jacqui Smith: As part of the national strategy for PE, School Sport and Club Links, the Lawn Tennis Association is receiving £805,000 to allow them to build sustainable high quality links between School Sport Partnerships and accredited clubs. Funding of National Governing Bodies of Sport through Whole Sport Plans will of course also have a major impact on junior participation.

Data taken from the 2003/04 PE, School Sport and Club Links Survey showed that 70 per cent. of the 6,500 schools taking part provide tennis to their pupils and 27 per cent. have a link to a local tennis club. This is the sixth most popular school to club link.

Tuition Fees

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will estimate the likely debt of graduates from higher education institutions in England from *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high income backgrounds from 2009–10, broken down by (i) fee and (ii) maintenance loans. [3099]

Bill Rammell: Debt will depend on the financial circumstances and choices of individual students. Information from the Student Income and Expenditure Survey (SIES) 2002/03 indicated that average total student debt on graduation was £8,666: £10,198 for students from the lower, £9,288 for those from the middle and £7,952 for those from the higher socio-economic classes. The 2004/05 SIES, published at the end of 2005, will give up-to-date figures.

The introduction of loans for variable fees of up to £3,000 will increase the amount the average student borrows. However, those receiving the new maintenance grants and university bursaries could use them to reduce their call on loans for fees. Students generally may also seek to pay fee contributions from part-time work or family income.

Changes to maintenance loans levels could reduce rather than increase student indebtedness for many poorer students. Although maintenance loans will rise in 2006/07 to reflect the median of essential living costs expenditure recorded in the SIES 2002/03, a bigger change will be the substitution of a significant part of the new £2,700 maintenance grant for maintenance loans for lower income students, reducing the need to borrow.

It is therefore very difficult to estimate student indebtedness from 2009/10 now. We will be monitoring changes in borrowing patterns as the new student support arrangements come in.

Whatever a student's circumstances, no student from 2006/07 has to pay fees upfront and the arrangements for repayment of maintenance and fee loans are fair and equitable. The graduate's repayments are at zero real rate of interest, related directly to earnings and only required when earnings are greater than £15,000 per year.

Workforce Agreements (Schools)

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on progress towards implementation of the workforce agreement for schools. [4166]

Jacqui Smith: The first two phases of the National Agreement Raising Standards and Tackling Workload have already taken effect in schools. The third and final phase takes effect in September 2005 and will provide, among other things, guaranteed planning, preparation and assessment time for teachers. The signatories to the Agreement—school work force unions, employers and Government—are working with the National Remodelling Team, offering advice, guidance and support, to ensure continued successful implementation in schools.

HEALTH

Agency Nursing Staff

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many agency nurses were employed by the NHS in *(a)* Haltemprice and Howden, *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each of the past five years; and at what cost. [3598]

Mr. Byrne: Information is not available centrally in the form requested, but for England, expenditure on non-national health service nursing, midwifery and health visiting, which includes agency and other staff, is shown in the following table.

£

	England
1999–2000	361,656,683
2000–01	435,431,882
2001–02	554,323,821
2002–03	589,738,042
2003–04	524,675,129

Notes:
1. 2003–04 is the latest date for which data are available.
2. Data relate to non-NHS staff: nursing, midwifery and health visiting, which cannot be broken down further.

Sources:
Annual financial returns of health authorities 1999–2000 to 2001–02.
Annual financial returns of strategic health authorities 2002–03 and 2003–04.
Annual financial returns of primary care trusts 2000–01 to 2003–04.
Annual financial returns of NHS trusts 1999–2000 to 2003–04.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the national health service spent on hiring agency nursing staff in each of the last 18 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [3073]

Mr. Byrne: Information is not available centrally in the form requested but, for England, expenditure on non-national health service nursing, midwifery and health visiting, which includes agency and other staff, for the last two financial years for which figures are available are shown in the table.

Non-NHS staff: nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff—England

	£
2002–03	589,738,042
2003–04	524,675,129

Source:
Annual financial returns of strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts 2002–3 and 2003–04.

The figures show that spend is down by £65 million, or 11 per cent., in 2003–04 due to:

increasing flexible working patterns;

expanding the NHS nursing workforce;

implementing agency framework agreements;

establishing NHS Professionals as a special health authority.

Alcohol (Young People)

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged between 11 and 15 years have been admitted to hospital owing to alcohol-related problems in each year since 1997. [2134]

Mr. Byrne: The numbers of children aged between 11 and 15 years who have been admitted to hospital owing to alcohol-related problems in each year since 1997 are shown in the table.

Counts of finished in-year admissions where there was a primary diagnosis code or cause code for selected alcohol related diseases, age at admission between 11–15 years, national health service hospitals, England, 1997–98 to 2003–04

Primary diagnosis	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	2,455	2,324	2,949	2,902	2,972	2,745	3,216
K70 Alcoholic liver disease	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
T51 Toxic effect of alcohol	894	737	760	736	691	561	542
X45 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	554	457	481	533	439	300	272

Allergies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to implement the recommendations of the Health Select Committee to improve the diagnosis and treatment provided by the NHS for people suffering with allergies. [4579]

Mr. Byrne: In its response to the Health Committee report on the provision of allergy services, the Government undertook to carry out a review of the available data and research on the epidemiology of allergic conditions, the demand for and provision of treatment and the effectiveness of relevant interventions. The chief medical officer is overseeing this review of the evidence, which we hope to complete by the end of June 2006. It will inform decisions about what steps could be taken to address any gaps and pressures that it reveals.

Ambulance Service

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on ensuring that ambulance response times are recorded consistently across all ambulance trusts. [4394]

Mr. Byrne: The Department issues annual guidance to ambulance trusts setting out how response times should be reported. This is updated annually. In addition, since 1 April 2005, ambulance trusts have been required to standardise how calls are categorised, in order to further improve consistency of response.

The Department recognises the need for further clarification regarding definitions of ambulance response times. The current strategic review of ambulance services is considering this, and we hope to publish the review's findings shortly.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to improve the efficiency of the ambulance service. [2963]

Mr. Byrne: The Department last year commissioned Peter Bradley CBE, Chief Executive of London Ambulance Service national health service trust and National Ambulance Adviser to the Department, to lead a strategic review of ambulance services in England. One of the subjects the review is considering is how to support improvements in the efficiency of ambulance services. We hope to publish the review by the summer recess.

Antipsychotic Medication

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued in each of the last five years for *(a)* atypical, *(b)* traditional and *(c)* all antipsychotic medication in each (i) region and (ii) health authority for (A) 0 to 15 years, (B) 16 to 59 years and (C) 60 years and over age groups. [2909]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the requested format.

Information on the number of prescription items for atypical, traditional and all antipsychotic drugs dispensed in the community in each strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCTs) in England since 2001 has been placed in the Library. Data are not available for 1999 and 2000. The information has been broken down by age groups where possible and the year on year percentage changes recorded.

The information does not include prescriptions dispensed in hospitals or mental health trusts. Given that a large proportion of antipsychotic medication is dispensed in hospitals and mental health trusts, this data should not be used to compare PCTs' prescribing practices.

Asthma

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of asthma have been recorded in each month since 1997. [3351]

Mr. Byrne: Hospital episode statistics data on the number of finished consultant episodes are not available monthly.

Annual figures, for England, with a primary diagnosis of asthma are shown in the table.

	Number of finished consultant episodes for asthma
1998–99	69,725
1999–2000	65,164
2000–01	61,264
2001–02	63,067
2002–03	62,273
2003–04	70,129

Breastfeeding

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the training provided for those training to be *(a)* a midwife and *(b)* a health visitor in respect of breastfeeding. [1318]

Mr. Byrne: This is the responsibility of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the regulatory body that sets standards for nursing and midwifery training and approves the education institutions that provide the training and determine the curricula.

Cervical Smear Tests

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of smear tests in England resulted in women being recalled as a result of inadequate smears in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [3069]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total number of cervical tests taken, the number of inadequate tests and the proportion that were inadequate between 2000–01 and 2003–04 is shown in the table.

	Total number of smear tests	*Number of inadequate smear tests*	*Number of inadequate smear tests as percentage*
2003–04	4,031,885	370,138	9.2
2002–03	4,154,546	384,940	9.3
2001–02	4,371,561	396,164	9.1
2000–01	4,089,440	391,468	9.6

Being recalled to have a second cervical screening test because the first was inadequate can be a stressful and anxious time for women. To reduce this uncertainty we are introducing liquid based cytology (LBC) to the national health service cervical screening programme. LBC is a new way of making and reading cervical test slides. Government-funded pilot studies have shown that LBC reduces the rate of inadequate tests from around 9 per cent. to between 1 and 2 per cent. This means that, when fully implemented, 300,000 women a year will not be called back because their slide could not be read.

Chronic Fatigue

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the research project undertaken by North Bristol NHS trust on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in Chronic Fatigue; and if she will make a statement. [3044]

Mr. Byrne: The project funded by the national health service health technology assessment programme, "Cognitive behavioural therapy in chronic fatigue syndrome: a randomised controlled trial of an outpatient group programme", for which the grant holder is the North Bristol NHS trust, has been allocated a total of £75,432.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned on the *(a)* physical causes and *(b)* treatment of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; and how much has been spent on such research in each of the last five years. [2882]

Mr. Byrne: The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body, funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

The MRC does not normally allocate funds to particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. When appropriate, high quality research in particular areas of strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds, but research excellence and importance to health continues to be the primary considerations in funding decisions. The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding.

The MRC is currently funding two complementary trials into various treatment options for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) that aim to improve quality of life for those who are ill. The Department is meeting part of the cost of the trials, to which £4.2 million in total has been allocated. Patient recruitment began toward the end of last year.

Since 1998, the Department has separately commissioned and funded a number of small scale research projects related to aspects of CFS/ME at a total cost of £293,000.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is, however, devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects, including some concerned with myalgic encephalomyelitis, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the prevalence of *clostridium difficile* bacterium at Stoke Mandeville Hospital; and whether she has instigated an inquiry into fatalities there. [4065]

Jane Kennedy: As the outbreak is still being investigated, complete data are not available but the major cause of this outbreak appears to be a virulent strain of *clostridium difficile*. Our first priority is to resolve the current situation at the hospital and both the Department and Health Protection Agency are in close contact with the trust. However, officials are speaking to the Healthcare Commission about possible terms of reference and scope for an investigation.

Dentistry

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many registered NHS dentists there are in Hertford and Stortford constituency; [1081]

(2) how many additional NHS dentists she expects to become registered during 2005–06 in Hertford and Stortford constituency; [1082]

(3) what actions her Department has taken to enable NHS dentists to reduce waiting lists in Hertford and Stortford constituency. [1083]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 31 March 2005, there were 141 registered national health service dentists in the Hertford and Stortford constituency, which is covered by Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford Primary Care Trust (PCT) and South Hertfordshire PCT. This information was provided by the dental practice board and relates to dentists whose practice address postcode is within the constituency boundary.

Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford PCT expect 2.5 whole time equivalent (WTE) dentists to become registered during 2005–06, resulting in 4,500 new patient registrations.

South East Hertfordshire PCT expects 6.6 WTE dentists to become registered during 2005–06, resulting in 11,900 new patient registrations.

It is anticipated that the appointment of these additional dentists will have a significant impact on the number of patients waiting to see a dentist.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish for consultation the Department's review of dental patient charges. [2281]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A dental charges working group, led by Harry Cayton, the Department's Director for Patients and the Public, submitted proposals for a new system of dental patient charges to the Department in March 2004. These proposals are being considered alongside information about the effects of the new pilot dental contracts on treatment patterns. The written ministerial statement in January indicated that we would be consulting on a new system of dental charges in the summer.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the NHS IT system for NHS dentistry; and whether dentists will *(a)* have access to the NHS Net and *(b)* have access to electronic patient records. [3283]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Work continues to finalise functional requirements for clinical information technology systems in both primary and secondary care and to ensure that solutions will integrate with the wider national programme for information technology. These requirements will be informed by the new contractual arrangements for primary care dentistry.

In addition, a programme of work is in hand to specify and procure a clinical information system for use in the dental hospitals of England. Part of this work will involve early definition of the dental component of the national care record system, with access to the care record for general dental practitioners likely to be in the later stages of the programme.

A pilot project is also under way to explore 'choose and book' functionality for primary care dentistry. A programme team has now been appointed and the 200 practices taking part in the field trials will be connected to the new national health service national network, N3. Discussions are under way regarding proposals to include general dental practitioners in the NHS Contact email service.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS dentists have been employed in North Shropshire constituency in each of the last five years. [2789]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on a whole time equivalent basis is not available, as dentists are able to vary the amount of hours they work and to vary their national health service commitment. Many dentists do some private work. In North Shropshire constituency, the numbers of NHS dentists, as at 31 December each year, were:

	Number
2000	31
2001	31
2002	31
2003	33
2004	36

Note:
This data comes from the Dental Practice Board and relates to the number of dentists working in the general dental service and personal dental service in North Shropshire.

Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the allocated capital funding for years *(a)* one and *(b)* two has been spent on digital cameras and related software for the screening of people with diabetes. [2810]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is collected in the accounts of national health service bodies on capital spending by the Department. However, this is at an aggregated level and cannot identify individual items or types of items within the overall categories of software and information technology equipment purchases.

Diagnostic and Treatment Centres

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what checks are made to ensure that private diagnostic and treatment centres are complying with her Department's requirement that none of their staff have worked for the NHS in the preceding six months; [3572]

(2) whether the restrictions on private diagnostic and treatment centres recruiting NHS staff applies to agency staff working in the NHS. [3573]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Independent sector providers report to the Department monthly on a wide range of performance indicators including additionality. Independent sector providers are contractually obliged to ensure that additional staff working in independent sector treatment centres have not worked in the national health service for the previous six months. Regular joint service reviews are conducted on the data that are submitted and should any breaches or waivers be revealed the Department would investigate these.

The employment of agency staff by independent sector treatment centres is a matter for the independent sector provider as an employer.

Digital Hearing Aids

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time is for patients to be fitted with a digital hearing aid at the Royal Surrey County Hospital; [3825]

(2) what representations she has received on the change in her Department's national guidelines on the fitting of digital hearing aids; and if she will make a statement; [3826]

(3) for what reasons patients fitted with analogue hearing aids in the past three years are ineligible to be fitted with digital hearing aids; and if she will make a statement. [3827]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Information on waiting times is not held centrally.

There have been no changes to the national guidelines for fitting digital hearing aids since this Government became the first to make digital hearing aids free of charge in September 2000.

General guidelines issued by the modernisation hearing aid services (MHAS) programme include a recommendation that patients who have been fitted with, or offered, a hearing aid through the NHS service for the first time within the previous three years should be offered a digital aid only when they are reassessed and found to need new aids. These guideline are intended to ensure that the needs of people without a hearing aid and those with older hearing aids are addressed before the needs of people with a recently fitted aid. Use of these guidelines is subject to local clinical discretion.

Direct Payments (Disabled People)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will simplify the paperwork relating to the qualification for and management of direct payments for people with long-term disabilities. [4643]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is aware that some people are deterred from taking up direct payments because of the paperwork involved in becoming an employer. This is why we introduced the direct payments development fund in 2003. The fund is worth £3 million each year over three years. It aims to support voluntary organisations in partnership with their local councils in building up the support services we have learnt are fundamental to the success of direct payments.

In addition, following the publication of the Green Paper, "Independence, Well-being and Choice", we are consulting on the viability of a new approach. It would offer the real benefit of choice and the control of direct payments without the potential burdens. This approach involves individual budgets which are held by the local authority on behalf of the person using services and who would work with them to arrange the appropriate support.

Fertility Treatment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance her Department has provided to *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts on the eligibility criteria for IVF treatment provided by the NHS since 25 February 2005; [3946]

(2) whether her Department has issued guidance to *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts on how to prioritise fertility treatment for patients according to social criteria; [3947]

(3) what steps her Department has taken to assess compliance with the announcement on the availability of IVF treatment made by the then Secretary of State for Health on 25 February 2005; [3948]

(4) how many primary care trusts have produced clinical guidance on the availability of IVF treatment to women in their area following the announcement made by the then Secretary of State for Health on 25 February 2005. [3949]

Caroline Flint: On 26 February 2004, the Department's Chief Executive's bulletin to the national health service included the following:

"NICE'S guideline on NHS fertility treatment services was published on 25 February. The Secretary of State has welcomed the guideline and advises as follows:

the Department will be looking to PCTs who provide no IVF treatment to meet minimum national level of provision of one cycle of IVF by April 2005

in the longer term he would expect the NHS to make progress to full implementation

the priority is to help those in greatest need—that must mean couples who have no children living with them."

The Department and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) recognised that it would take time for the guideline to be fully implemented across the NHS. The primary responsibility for implementing NICE guidelines rests with the NHS at local level. The consideration that primary care trusts (PCTs) give to this is part of the range of factors that they, in liaison with local health bodies and patients groups, take into account in deciding their policy on the provision of treatment services for their locality. This policy will, quite rightly, reflect local health needs and priorities.

Compliance with NICE guidance by NHS organisations will be considered by the Healthcare Commission during its review and performance assessment processes.

We do not collect information centrally on the local provision of assisted treatment services or the guidance that PCTs issue about it.

Flexi-menus (Hospitals)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to establish pilots for flexi-menus in NHS hospitals, as described by the Minister of State, Lord Warner, in *The Daily Telegraph* on 16 March; and which NHS hospitals will conduct the pilots. [3353]

Jane Kennedy: Flexi-menu trials have recently been undertaken at Pilgrim Hospital, Lincolnshire, and Salisbury Hospital, Wiltshire. Further trials are also planned at Solihull Hospital, West Midlands, Central Middlesex Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, London, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich and Addenbrookes, Cambridge.

Foreign Nurses

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nurses were employed in the NHS in Staffordshire *(a)* in 1997, *(b)* in 2001 and *(c)* on the latest date for which figures are available; and what percentage of the total those figures represent in each case. [3303]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

General Practitioners (North Shropshire)

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS general practitioners have been employed in North Shropshire constituency in each of the last five years. [2790]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the requested format. However, information relating to the estimated numbers of full-time equivalent (fte) general medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars[1], for Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority (SHA) and Shropshire county primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the table.

Estimated full-time equivalents

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	December 2004
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	749	741	756	785	799	798
Shropshire County PCT	n/a	155	157	162	167	168

[1] General medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars, includes contracted general practitioners, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004, this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.
Data as at 30 September every year, except 31 December 2004
n/a denotes not available.
Fte data has been estimated using the results from the 1992–93 GMP workload survey
For 1994–2003—contracted GPs—full-time = 1.00 fte; three quarter time = 0.69 fte; job share = 0.65 fte; and half time = 0.60 fte; Other GP types full-time = 1.00 fte; part-time = 0.6 fte.
For 2004—all GPs—full-time = 1.0 fte; part-time = 0.6 fte, and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years.
Fte GP retainers have been estimated using a factor of 0.12 per session for 1994–2004.
Source:
National health service health and social care information centre QMS and PMS statistics.

Genetic Testing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she is taking to reduce the time taken to undertake genetic testing. [3210]

Jane Kennedy: The 2003 genetics White Paper, "Our inheritance, our future—realising the potential of genetics in the NHS", announced £18 million to upgrade national health service genetics laboratories in England. As a result of this increase in laboratory capacity, we expect that by 2006 genetic test results should be available:

Within three days where the result is needed urgently, for example, for prenatal diagnosis.

Within two weeks where the potential genetic mutation is already known, for example, because another family member have already been tested.

Within eight weeks for unknown mutations in a large gene.

This initiative builds on earlier investments by the Department, including £11 million in specialised genetics services from 2001 and two national genetic reference laboratories to explore the use of new technologies in NHS genetic laboratories. The genetics White Paper also announced that it would boost the future workforce in NHS genetic laboratories by funding up to 90 healthcare scientist trainees in genetics and 10 trainer posts.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to publish the results of the two-year review of genito-urinary medicine services undertaken by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health. [3354]

Caroline Flint: The review is expected to be completed in 2006, at which time the Department will consider when and how to disseminate the findings.

GP Practices

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* single-handed and *(b)* two or more partner general practitioner practices there were in Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth Primary Care Trust area on the latest date for which figures are available; and what percentage these practices represent of the total number of general practitioner practices in the primary care trust area. [3322]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Number of practices by practice size for Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth Primary Care Trust (PCT)—as at 30 September 2004

5DQ Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT	Number (headcount) and percentages
Total	24
of which:	
Single handed practices[1]	9
Practices with two or more partners	15
Percentage of single handed practices	38
Percentage of practices with two or more partners	63

[1] Figures cannot be calculated prior to 2004 for single handed practitioners, excluding GP registrars and GP retainers.
Source:
National health service health and social care information centre general and personal medical services statistics.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of routine appointment waiting times at general practitioner surgeries in Hornsey and Wood Green; and if she will make a statement. [2887]

Jane Kennedy: The NHS Plan states that, by December 2004, all patients will be able to see a primary care professional (PCP) within 24 hours and a general practitioner within 48 hours.

The results for the Haringey Primary Care Trust May 2005 primary care access survey are:

	Percentage
24 hour GP access	100
48 hour PCP access	100

Heart Hospital, London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement about the recent closure of the Heart hospital, London. [3270]

Jane Kennedy: This is a matter for the chair of the University College London hospital national health service foundation trust. I have written to the chair, Peter Dixon. He will reply shortly and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Hepatitis C

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to collate centrally information on the numbers of prisoners receiving treatment for hepatitis C. [3136]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no present plans to do so.

Hepatology

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to establish regional centres of excellence for hepatology. [3134]

Mr. Byrne: The Department has drawn the attention of specialised commissioning groups to the need to plan on the basis of the national definition for specialised hepatology services. In that context they will need to consider that some activities will be restricted to the seven liver transplant centres while other treatments should only be carried out at hepatology centres where the full range of multi-disciplinary support is available. Some local hospitals have developed expertise in a particular treatment and could be recognised appropriately as a centre for that particular treatment.

Hospital Cleanliness

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received regarding the use of ward sisters in the pursuit of cleanliness on hospital wards; and from whom those representations have been received. [3146]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has received no formal representations on this issue. We recognise that ward sisters have a key role to play in ensuring that hospitals are clean. "A Matron's Charter: An Action Plan for Cleaner Hospitals", published in 2004 by all of the organisations representing nursing staff, re-emphasises the importance of involving ward sisters in establishing cleaning contracts and setting and monitoring standards of cleanliness.

Hospitals (Learning Disabilities)

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what hospital facilities were available *(a)* in the last financial year and *(b)* in each of the previous five years to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities (i) across the NHS and (ii) in the private sector. [3525]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* The national health service and private sector provides a variety of hospital facilities for people with learning disabilities. The figures available for NHS facilities are shown in the following table.

Hospital inpatient activity: average daily number of available beds for learning disabled people; NHS trusts in England

Learning disabilities:	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Children: short stay	—	—	281	205	268	229
Children: long stay	—	—	95	70	141	59
Other ages: secure unit	—	—	431	407	508	514
Other ages: short stay	—	—	1,323	1,374	1,117	1,210
Other ages: long stay	—	—	4,186	3,639	3,003	3,199
Total	6,834	6,834	6,316	5,694	5,038	5,212

Source:
KH03 return, Department of Health

With regard to private sector facilities, on 31 March 2004, the Healthcare Commission identified 46 private sector facilities registered as independent hospitals providing 968 beds for people with learning disabilities.

Source: The Healthcare Commission, 2004

Incinerators

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned on the health effects of energy-from-waste incinerators. [4160]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not commissioned specific research into the health effects of energy-from-waste incinerators. Several studies of cancer rates near the older generation of waste incinerators have been undertaken by the small area health statistics unit (SAHSU). The Department is a co-funder of SAHSU, which is wholly funded by the Government. The expert advisory committee on the carcinogenicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment considered these studies in March 2000[1, 2, 3] and concluded[4] that any potential risk of cancer due to residency near to municipal solid waste incinerators was exceedingly low and probably not measurable by the most modern epidemiological techniques. The Committee agreed that, at the present time, there was no need for any further epidemiological investigations of cancer incidence near municipal solid waste incinerators.

In addition to the studies of cancer, Government-funded investigations in the 1980s found no association with birth defects around two ReChem waste incinerators in Wales[5, 6, 7] and Scotland[8, 9], although no firm conclusion could be drawn in the Scottish study[9] about the occurrence of the eye defect microphthalmos.

Emissions from modern waste incinerators in the United Kingdom are subject to stringent controls which have been introduced since the periods covered by the studies noted.

References:

[1] Elliott P, Hills M, Beresford J, Kleinschmidt I, Jolley D, Pattenden S, Rodrigues L, Westlake A, Rose G. Incidence of cancers of the larynx and lung near incinerators of waste solvents and oils in Great Britain. Lancet. 1992;339(8797):854–8.

[2] Elliott P, Shaddick G, Kleinschmidt I, Jolley D, Walls P, Beresford J, Grundy C. Cancer incidence near municipal solid waste incinerators in Great Britain. Br J Cancer. 1996;73(5):702–10.

[3] Elliott P, Eaton N, Shaddick G, Carter R. Cancer incidence near municipal solid waste incinerators in Great Britain. Part 2: histopathological and case-note review of primary liver cancer cases. Br J Cancer. 2000;82(5):1103–6.

[4] Department of Health, Food Standards Agency. Committees on toxicity, mutagenicity and carcinogenicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment. Annual Report 2000. Committee on carcinogenicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment statement on cancer incidence near municipal solid waste incinerators in Great Britain. London: Department of Health, Food Standards Agency, 2001. Br J Cancer. 2000 Mar;82(5):1103–6 Also available at the following website address: www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/coc/munipwst.htm

[5] Welsh Office. The incidence of congenital malformations in Wales, with particular reference to the district of Torfaen, Gwent. A Welsh Office review of notifications made to the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys. Cardiff: Welsh Office, 1985.

[6] Welsh Office. The incidence of congenital malformations in Wales, with particular reference to the district of Torfaen, Gwent. An updated analysis of notifications to the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys. Cardiff: Welsh Office, 1987.

[7] Laurence KM. Neural tube defect and polydactyly in Gwent. Cardiff: 1987.

[8] Scottish Home and Health Department. Bonnybridge/Denny morbidity review. (Report of independent review group; Chairman: Professor John Lenihan). Edinburgh: Scottish Home and Health Department, 1985

[9] Scottish Home and Health Department. Report of a working party on microphthalmos in the Forth Valley health board area. Edinburgh: Scottish Home and Health Department, 1988.

Lifestyle

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken and what plans she has to encourage people *(a)* to exercise and *(b)* to lead healthy lifestyles. [3163]

Caroline Flint: "Choosing Activity: a physical activity action plan", was published on 9 March 2005. The plan brings together all the commitments relating to physical activity in the Public Health White Paper, "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier", as well as further activity across Government, which will contribute to increasing levels of physical activity. This represents a cross-Government plan to co-ordinate action aimed at increasing levels of physical activity across the whole population—as recommended in "Game Plan : A Strategy for delivering Government's sport and physical activity objectives", published by the Department of Culture Media and Sport and the Prime Ministers' strategy unit in 2002. Work is already under way to support the physical activity action plan, which includes:

Publication of the Chief Medical Officer's report, "At least Five A Week", in April 2004, setting out recommendations on activity levels sufficient for general health as well as more specific recommendations in relation to individual disease and conditions.

The Department, together with the Countryside Agency and Sport England, sponsoring local exercise action pilots in 10 neighbourhood renewal areas, which are testing different community approaches to increasing physical activity in deprived areas.

Publication of a guide for primary care trusts and football clubs to encourage good practice and foster links in health improvement work.

The Department also published "Delivering Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier" on 9 March. This overarching delivery plan will help more people make more healthy choices and reduce health inequalities, in particular through:

The introduction from mid 2007 of Health Direct, which will be accessible via the existing NHS Direct web, telephone and digital television-based service and will provide a permanent one-stop shop of practical health improvement information, advice and decision-support tools to professionals and individuals.

The provision of practical support to individuals through health trainers, who will be community based and who will help people develop their own personal health plans, provide advice and practical support to stop smoking, practise safer sex, deal with stress and access local services.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research is being undertaken into dry macular degeneration. [2564]

Mr. Byrne: The main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

In 2002–03, the latest year for which figures are available, the MRC spent £5.9 million on vision research. This research includes a project on genetic susceptibility to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The project aims to identify the genetic factors involved in AMD.

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service and, through its health technology assessment programme, is undertaking a systematic review into the cost effectiveness of screening programmes for both wet and dry AMD.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects including a number concerned with AMD can be found on the national research register at: www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Medical Practice Funding (Shropshire)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical practices in the Shropshire County Primary Care Trust area are awaiting funding for relocation. [3189]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mental Capacity Act

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to make available to Parliament the guidelines for the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 which are to be sent to all hospitals. [3251]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Mental Capacity Act will be accompanied by a code of practice. A draft code was laid before Parliament in September 2004. The revised draft will be subject to formal consultation in 2006 and the aim is to have the final code ready for implementation of the Act by April 2007.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she will give to commissioning authorities on the continued use and funding of licensed cancer drugs affected by the delay in their appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [1999]

Jane Kennedy: In 1999, the Department issued Health Service Circular 1999/176, which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not yet been issued. These arrangements should include an assessment of the available evidence.

NHS Finance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list for each primary care trust its expenditure in the last financial year on out-of-area treatment for *(a)* people with a learning disability and *(b)* people with mental health problems. [3526]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* This information is not held centrally.

NHS Management Salaries (Hertfordshire)

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many managers working in Hertfordshire NHS trusts receive pay in excess of £100,000 per annum; and if she will make a statement. [3219]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, this information is published in each trust's annual accounts, which can be accessed via each trust's individual website or by telephoning the individual trust who will send a copy out in the post.

NHS Staff

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the impact of staff availability on NHS capacity; and if she will make a statement. [3071]

Mr. Byrne: There has been a significant increase in national health service staffing with over 1.3 million people employed in September 2004, an increase of 272,000 or 26 per cent. since 1997 with greater devolution to NHS organisations in line with Shifting the Balance of Power. The approach to workforce planning is changing with greater reliance on credible local plans that maximise workforce capacity to support delivery. Delivering the NHS Improvement Plan: the Workforce Contribution highlights strategic workforce issues, which primary care trusts and strategic health authorities are asked to ensure are considered in their local delivery plans. This includes maintaining adequate staffing levels to maximise NHS capacity to deliver services.

Obesity

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action her Department has taken to implement the recommendations of the Health Select Committee regarding *(a)* assisting people who suffer with obesity and *(b)* encouraging people to take action to stop them being obese. [4581]

Caroline Flint: The Health Select Committee's report made a major contribution to the development of our proposals for action in the White Paper, "Choosing Health", published in November 2004. Obesity was one of the six overarching priorities of the White Paper and we were able to address very nearly all of the Committee's recommendations.

The White Paper delivery plan, "Delivering Choosing Health", together with national plans focusing on nutrition, "Choosing a Better Diet", and physical activity, "Choosing Activity", published in March 2005, set out the detail of how we will deliver our White Paper proposals and how they will contribute to delivery of the public service agreement target on obesity.

Overseas Doctors

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin concerning the process by which overseas doctors obtain visas following Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board qualification; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [3386]

Mr. Byrne: The British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin have had discussions with the Department about the immigration rules relating to doctors who are seeking employment in the United Kingdom. The Department is discussing their views with the Home Office.

Pennine Acute NHS Trust

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the recent vote of no confidence received by the Pennine Acute NHS trust board. [4170]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* I am aware that a vote of no confidence has been called at the Pennine Acute hospitals national health service trust. The postal ballot is due to close on 21 June. However, in line with the Department's Shifting the Balance of Power initiative, this matter needs to be resolved by the local NHS trust.

Primary Care (Hornsey and Wood Green)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds have been committed to improving access to primary care in Hornsey and Wood Green since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [2886]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has supported Haringey Primary Care Trust (PCT) with a total of £1.3 million towards the cost of the North Middlesex national health service walk-in centre. However, under "Shifting the Balance of Power" principles, it is for Haringey PCT to decide how much of its overall funding is committed to improving primary care access and how much to other priorities. Haringey PCT's investment decisions have enabled it to be able to report that, from December 2004, it has successfully delivered the primary care access target without denying local patients the opportunity to book appointments ahead.

Radiographers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the number of radiographers that will be employed in the NHS in each year until 2010. [3442]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1999, the number of radiographers employed in the NHS has increased by 1,570 (13 per cent.) to 13,900 in 2004. The Government have substantially increased training places for radiographers and expect that there will be further increases in the radiography workforce, but no forecast numbers are available to 2010.

Rheumatology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence she has received from the British Society for Rheumatology relating to the prevalence of postcode prescribing in the treatment of *(a)* rheumatoid arthritis, *(b)* ankylosing spondylitis and *(c)* psoriatic arthritis. [3437]

Mr. Byrne: I have received a copy of a report entitled "Access to anti-TNF Therapies for Adults with Inflammatory Arthritis", published jointly by the British Society for Rheumatology and the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance.

Self-harming

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were treated for self-harming in 2004. [4645]

Mr. Byrne: Data for estimated finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of self-inflicted injury and/or poisoning by cause: children and adolescents in 2003–04 is shown in the table.

	Under 16	*Aged 16–18*	*All episodes*
All completed injury and poisoning episodes	127,950	32,910	823,890
Self-inflicted injury (X60-X84)	7,400	6,170	78,390
Self-inflicted injury by solid/liquid substances (X60-X69)	6,810	5,830	73,290
Intentional self harm—all methods (X70- X84)	590	330	5,100
Injury undetermined whether accidental (Y10-Y34)	550	270	3,580
All other causes (V01-X59, X85-09, Y35-Y98)	106,450	22,490	572,640
No external cause given	13,550	3,990	169,290

Source:
Hospital episode statistics, NHS health and social care information centre

Trent Strategic Health Authority

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency beds there were in the area administered by Trent Strategic Health Authority in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the daily cost per bed was for each kind of bed in that area in that year; [3249]

(2) what the total cost of patients in *(a)* intensive and *(b)* high dependency care in Trent Strategic Health Authority's area of administration was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what percentage of the total budget for NHS beds in that area in that year that figure represents. [3250]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There were 62 intensive care beds and 65 high dependency care beds on 13 January 2005 within Trent Strategic Health Authority. This is the latest data available.

On 15 January 2004 there were 60 intensive care beds and 58 high dependency beds.

The following table shows the total cost and the average daily cost per bed in 2003–04 in Trent and nationally.

	Total cost (£000)	*Average cost per unit per day in Trent (£)*	*National average cost per unit per day (£)*
Intensive therapy unit/intensive care unit	23,154	1,378	1,328
Neonatal intensive care unit—level 1	4,763	588	838
Neonatal intensive care unit—level 2	2,397	721	560
Special care baby unit	7,147	308	353
Cardiac Intensive Care Unit	2,465	1,065	1,025
Coronary care unit	6,042	516	457
High dependency unit	7,211	565	584
Paediatric intensive care unit	3,627	1,822	1,702
Total	56,807	—	—

Notes:
Average cost is calculated by dividing total cost by occupied bed days to give an average cost per occupied bed day.

Source data: Reference costs 2004 for financial year 2003–04.
National average unit costs source data: national schedule of reference costs 2004 for financial year 2003–04, Appendix 1: National Health Service Trusts' own data.
Source:
Department of Health statistical return form KHO3a.

The percentage that this represents, of the total budget for NHS beds in that area, is not held centrally.

Smoking-related Deaths

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the total number of deaths from smoking-related illnesses in people who are not smokers for the most recent period for which figures are available; and what proportion of these deaths were in people whose partners were smokers. [3435]

Caroline Flint: The scientific committee on tobacco and health (SCOTH) has reviewed the evidence on harm from second hand smoke, most recently in its report published alongside the White Paper "Choosing Health", on 16 November 2004. SCOTH did not produce an estimate of the total number of deaths other than stating that there are "several hundred extra lung cancer deaths a year" due to exposure to second hand smoke. SCOTH did not produce figures which estimated what proportion of deaths were in people whose partners were smokers. A copy of the SCOTH report is available in the Library.

In March 2005, the *British Medical Journal* published a study by Professor K. Jamrozik, entitled, "Estimate of deaths attributable to passive smoking among UK adults: database analysis". This concluded that:

> "Across the United Kingdom as a whole, passive smoking at work is likely to be responsible for the deaths of more than two employed people per working day (617 deaths per year), including 54 deaths in the hospitality industry each year. Each year passive smoking at home might account for another 2700 deaths in persons aged 20–64 years and 8000 deaths among people aged 65 and over."

A copy of the study is available in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 16 June 2005

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make it her policy for all legislation for which her Department has responsibility to be available online. [3713]

Ms Harman: It is my Department's policy to make all relevant information available via its website as a matter of course unless that information should more correctly be published elsewhere online. For example, Acts of Parliament are published by HMSO. In these latter cases, my Department's policy is to provide links from its website to the information.

Child Maintenance Awards

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether guidance has been issued to courts requiring the granting of maintenance awards on an equal basis for each parent in cases where custody is awarded on an equal basis. [4032]

Bridget Prentice: No guidance on this matter has been issued to the courts. Under existing legislation the courts are empowered to make a number of orders in relation to the division of family property and financial provision for children. The courts will consider a range of issues in each case, including the contribution, both financial and other, made by each of the parties to looking after the home and children. The courts have the discretion to make the orders that they see as appropriate and fair with regard to the specific circumstances of each case. The needs of children are always the paramount consideration. Orders are made with regard to the financial status, and disposable income, of both parties.

Coroners (Retirement)

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs at what age a coroner who was appointed in 1972 must retire. [4921]

Ms Harman: There is no retirement age for coroners.

Family Visitor Appeals

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* oral and *(b)* paper-only family visitor appeals were received by the Immigration Appellate Authority in each month since 1 January 2004. [3297]

Bridget Prentice: Provisional figures show the volume of monthly receipts at the adjudicator tier of the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA), for the period January 2004 to the end of March 2005, to be as follows:

	Family visitor visa	
Month	*Oral receipts*	*Paper receipts*
2004		
January	490	578
February	787	675
March	789	865
April	790	716
May	803	646
June	1,134	900
July	1,266	1,173
August	1,624	1,191
September	2,452	1,808
October	1,674	1,517
November	1,440	1,403
December	2,259	1,823
2005		
January	1,317	856
February	1,122	959
March	994	776

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* oral and *(b)* paper-only family visitor appeals were determined by the Immigration Appellate Authority in each month since 1 January 2004; and how many of each type of appeal were successful. [3298]

Bridget Prentice: Provisional figures for the period January 2004 to March 2005 show the monthly volume of family visitor appeal decisions from an oral hearing, with appeal outcomes, at the adjudicator tier of the Immigration Appellate Authority, to be as follows:

Month	*Total oral decisions*	*Number allowed*	*Number dismissed*	*Number withdrawn*
2004				
January	782	439	328	15
February	459	264	184	11
March	546	313	209	24
April	731	391	303	37
May	761	438	291	32
June	789	455	309	25
July	795	475	281	39
August	993	607	339	47
September	1,239	741	449	49
October	1,648	977	614	57
November	1,650	981	620	49
December	1,345	791	497	57
2005				
January	1,049	538	467	44
February	1,281	680	554	47
March	1,315	656	579	80

And the provisional figures for family visitor appeals determined on the papers only, for the equivalent period, to be as follows.

Month	Total paper decisions	Number allowed	Number dismissed	Number withdrawn
2004				
January	690	230	457	3
February	615	222	390	3
March	672	257	413	2
April	637	220	417	0
May	767	311	452	4
June	910	358	549	3
July	627	243	381	3
August	908	334	572	2
September	1,088	453	635	0
October	1,313	450	862	1
November	1,686	592	1,092	2
December	1,056	382	669	5
2005				
January	1,132	412	718	2
February	1,358	439	915	4
March	1,294	486	806	2

Inquests

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what the average time has been between deaths and inquests in the jurisdiction of the Teesside Coroner during the last 12 months; [4918]

(2) how many unfinished cases there are in the jurisdiction of the Teesside Coroner; and how many are over six months old; [4919]

(3) what the backlog of cases requiring inquests in the jurisdiction of the Teesside Coroner is; and how many are over six months old; [4920]

(4) what the average time has been between deaths and inquests in the coroners' jurisdictions *(a)* in the North East and *(b)* nationally during the last 12 months. [4922]

Ms Harman: I will write to my hon. and learned Friend once the information is available.

Lay Magistrates (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many lay magistrates there are in Northern Ireland, broken down by *(a)* gender, *(b)* community background and *(c)* age. [4384]

Bridget Prentice: The Lord Chancellor recently appointed 272 people to the new judicial office of Lay Magistrate in Northern Ireland. Of these, *(a)* 46 per cent. are male and 54 per cent. female; *(b)* 55 per cent. Protestant, 38 per cent. Roman Catholic and 7 per cent. Other, and; *(c)* 6 per cent. are under the age of 30, 25 per cent. are between the ages of 30 and 40, 24 per cent. are between the ages of 40 and 50, 27 per cent. are between the ages of 50 and 60 and 18 per cent. are over the age of 60.

Legal Aid

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she plans to publish the findings of the Fundamental Legal Aid Review announced in May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [2761]

Bridget Prentice: We intend to set out our vision for the future of legal aid, outlining the Department's long-term strategy for reform and summarising the key findings of the Fundamental Legal Aid Review, in due course.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has to amend the system of legal aid in fraud trials. [2823]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to overhauling the laws on fraud and the way fraud trials are conducted for the 21st century ensuring that they are quicker and more effective.

The Fraud Bill, which is currently before Parliament, will implement Law Commission proposals to remove the deception offences in the Theft Acts and replace them with a general offence of fraud which can be committed in three ways—by false representation, by failure to disclose information or by abuse of position. This will ensure that prosecutors are better placed to undertake short and effective fraud trials.

We intend to set out our vision for the future of Legal Aid, outlining the Department's long term strategy for reform and summarising the key findings of the Fundamental Legal Aid Review, including tackling fraud, in due course.

Polling Times

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will extend the hours of polling for local government elections to the same as those that apply for general elections; and if she will make a statement. [3734]

Ms Harman: The Government agree with the Electoral Commission that consistent hours of polling at all elections is desirable. Polling hours for all elections except parliamentary elections are set in secondary legislation by various authorities, such as the devolved Administrations, and those authorities will need to take decisions on this issue. I will consider carefully any suggestions for amendments to the rules of the elections for which I am responsible.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of her Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3554]

Ms Harman: The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 placed a general duty and specific duties on a number of public bodies. The list of bodies subject to the general and specific duties is updated periodically in consultation with the CRE. My Department's Race Equality Scheme sets out the departmental approach to compliance and has been recently refreshed to take into account new bodies who form part of my Department.

Rape Trials

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what training is undertaken by recorders of the Crown court before they are ticketed to try rape. [4683]

Ms Harman: Judicial training is the responsibility of the Lord Chief Justice and is exercised through the Judicial Studies Board (JSB), an independent body chaired by Lord Justice Keene.

The Senior Presiding Judge, on behalf of the Lord Chief Justice, authorises selected Recorders to hear cases involving rape or a serious sexual offence. Before being authorised, a judge must have wide and significant experience of the criminal justice system, and must have demonstrated the necessary sensitivity for these cases. These authorised Recorders may not hear such a case without first having attended the appropriate JSB training, and the designated course for this is the Serious Sexual Offences Seminar (SSOS). Authorised Recorders, along with other authorised judiciary, will be invited to continuation training every three years from the date of their first attendance.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how recorders of the Crown are selected as suitable to try rape cases. [4684]

Ms Harman: The Senior Presiding Judge, on behalf of the Lord Chief Justice, authorises selected Recorders to hear cases involving rape or a serious sexual offence. Before being authorised a judge must have wide and significant experience of the criminal justice system, and must have demonstrated the necessary sensitivity for these cases. These authorised Recorders may not hear such a case without first having attended the appropriate JSB training, and the designated course for this is the Serious Sexual Offences Seminar (SSOS). Authorised Recorders, along with other authorised judiciary, will be invited to continuation training every three years from the date of their first attendance.

Terrorism Acts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to reform legal procedures for dealing with terror cases. [3603]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have indicated their intention to bring forward fresh counter-terrorism legislation and are currently considering what provisions it should contain. The intention is to bring forward proposals for pre-legislative scrutiny in late autumn.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Working Mothers (Child Care)

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women what plans the Government have to provide working mothers with access to personal advisers in relation to child care; and if she will make a statement. [3888]

Meg Munn: Jobcentre Plus have introduced Childcare Partnership Managers to help support the growth of local child care provision. They work alongside child care partners and employers to meet the child care needs of unemployed parents.

We realise that many working parents face difficulties in finding accessible, affordable and quality child care, which stops them making the most of their opportunities in work, training or study.

Childcare Partnership Managers have a key role to play in helping them find the child care they need when they need it.

WALES

Digital Television

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the provision of digital signals which would allow free view set-top boxes to be used in Welsh valley communities. [2767]

Mr. Hain: The topography of the Welsh valleys leads to problems in securing digital terrestrial reception. Of the 200 analogue transmitters in Wales, only nine have so far been converted to digital transmissions. This is to protect current analogue signals from interference. When switchover occurs, it is expected that all 200 transmitters will be equipped to broadcast digital signals.

We are committed to achieving digital switchover between 2008 and 2012, on a region by region basis, and will ensure that the interests of elderly people and other vulnerable groups are protected.

Higher Education Fees

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the provision of the necessary resources to the Welsh Assembly Government to avoid the introduction of variable top up fees in Wales. [4692]

Mr. Hain: I understand that the Assembly and the DfES have agreed the financial transfer under the Higher Education Act 2004.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5110]

Mr. Hain: None.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Television

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress towards rollout of digital television services. [4243]

James Purnell: Great progress has been made. 61.9 per cent. of households are now estimated to have digital television.

We welcome the fact that Switchco, the organisation which will co-ordinate the UK's switchover to digital television, is now in place.

As we said in our manifesto, we will achieve digital switchover between 2008 and 2012 ensuring universal access to high-quality, free-to-view and subscription digital TV. This will happen region by region, and we will make sure that the interests of elderly people and other vulnerable groups are protected.

Men's Lifestyle Magazines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Advertising Standards Authority, *(b)* the Press Complaints Commission and *(c)* others about guidelines or legislation to ensure that explicit covers on men's lifestyle magazines are kept out of the reach of children; and if she will make a statement. [3415]

James Purnell: None. The Government believe that a free press is vital in a democracy and we would not, therefore, seek to intervene in what a magazine chooses to publish. The Obscene Publications Act 1959 and the Indecent Displays Act 1981, are designed to protect children and others from exposure to inappropriate material. Furthermore, the National Federation of Retail Newsagents operates a voluntary code of practice for the display of pornographic magazines; 'lifestyle' magazines are displayed at newsagents' discretion, and customers can seek to influence how that discretion is exercised.

Royal Parks Agency

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make it her policy to ensure that the Royal Parks Agency takes full account of the environmental and social impact on communities and areas surrounding Royal Parks when decisions are taken to restrict car access to those parks. [3032]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* It is already the policy of the Royal Parks Agency to take full account of the environmental and social impact of decisions to restrict access to the Royal Parks for motor cars.

The agency is required under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 to consult with local authorities before introducing any measures that might affect traffic on the authorities' roads. By the same token, local authorities are required to consult the agency before introducing any measures on their roads that might affect traffic on park roads.

Television Licences (Northern Ireland)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many current television licence fees have been paid in each postcode area in Northern Ireland. [3510]

James Purnell: The BBC has responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and the maintenance of television licence records. I have therefore asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to her direct, placing a copy of the reply in the Library of the House.

Tourism Statistics

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent collating statistical information relating specifically to tourism in each year since 2000, broken down by region. [3894]

James Purnell: Five main surveys are used to assess the volume, value and nature of tourism for the UK, its countries and the regions of England.

The contract costs for these surveys since 2000 are shown in the table along with the expenditure on the UK Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) First Steps Project and English Regions TSA report.

£000

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*
Survey expenditure						
International Passenger Survey[1]	3,390	3,590	3,610	3,580	4,080	[2]4,100
UK Tourism Survey	625	625	630	650	665	810
Leisure Day Visits	—	—	450	—	—	—
UK Occupancy Survey	200	200	215	215	220	205
Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions	65	65	65	45	45	45
Tourism Satellite Account expenditure						
UK TSA First Steps Project	—	—	—	—	80	—
English Regions TSA Project	—	—	—	—	45	—

[1] Data from the IPS also provide key statistics for areas other than tourism—such as migration and balance of payments
[2] Estimated expenditure

The surveys all provide data at both national and regional levels, so results are to the equal benefit of all English regions.

Only survey contract costs have been provided, so human resource and other data collection costs have been excluded. For example, other data are collected by regional authorities in support of their tourism promotion objectives, though the amount spent is not held centrally.

All expenditure has been rounded to the nearest £5,000.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Leader of the House how many officials currently in his Office received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5115]

Mr. Hoon: None.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of staff in his Office have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3551]

Nigel Griffiths: The Office of the Leader comes within the administrative responsibility of the Privy Council Office. No specific training has taken place on the duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 but in line with the Privy Council Office Race Equality Scheme the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality is built into PCO recruitment, training and performance management processes.

The Privy Council Office is committed to equality of access to development opportunities and its Management Board have signed a Statement of Principle to that effect. The Privy Council Office also includes questions on harassment and discrimination in its staff attitude survey and will be launching a programme of awareness sessions for staff later this year.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Leader of the House what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Office comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3552]

Nigel Griffiths: The Office of the Leader is not responsible for any bodies or organisations.

TRANSPORT

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which his Department is responsible available online. [3723]

Ms Buck: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO have considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but have decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

The DFT Publication Scheme, published in November 2002, specifies the categories of information that the Department and its agencies publish at the moment and will publish in the future and explains how to obtain that information (which may be available directly through the DFT or elsewhere). Acts of Parliament and explanatory notes are not published on the DFT site.

Air Transport (Pollution)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to reduce aircraft stacking times over London; [4564]

(2) what the average daily composite time spent by planes destined for *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick held in stacking over London is; and what daily level of greenhouse gas emissions he estimates are attributable to this practice. [4565]

Ms Buck *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* The operation of air traffic control stacking procedures is a matter for National Air Traffic Services (NATS), the air navigation services provider. NATS' service performance, including reductions in delays, is incentivised by independent economic regulation by the Civil Aviation Authority, subject always to overriding safety considerations.

Aircraft are held in stacks when demand dictates, or when they are affected by weather or other factors, and their rate of arrival would otherwise exceed the capacity of the airport to receive them.

The Future of Air Transport White Paper noted that future growth would require a structured programme for the redesign of UK airspace, taking into account safety and environmental considerations. As part of that, we look to NATS to operate and develop air traffic control efficiently, consistently with their overall objectives, and in particular to seek to minimise stack holding as far as possible, to reduce fuel burn and emissions.

Estimates of daily levels of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to stack-holding are not available.

Crossrail

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much private sector investment is expected to be made in Crossrail. [3966]

Derek Twigg: The Government are working with Transport for London on the options for funding Crossrail. It will bring forward funding proposals, including on the level of investment expected from the private sector, during the passage of the Bill.

Heathrow Airport

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when London Heathrow terminal five is expected to be operational; and if he will make a statement. [4615]

Ms Buck: BAA have announced that they expect phase one of Heathrow terminal five to be operational in March 2008, with phase two due to open in spring 2011.

Hydrocarbons Consumption (International Aviation)

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of forecast consumption of hydrocarbons by international aviation for *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2015, *(d)* 2020, *(e)* 2025 and *(f)* 2030; and how much carbon will be emitted as a result in each case. [5027]

Ms Buck: The table gives the Government's estimates for the forecasted amounts of emissions due to international civil aviation in the UK. More detail on the assumptions underpinning these estimates is available from Aviation and Global Warming, published by the Department for Transport in January 2004.

The following figures relate to international aviation estimates for each decade (i.e. 2010, 2020, 2030) with interpolated figures being provided in brackets for the years that fall between the published figures. The values for fuel and CO_2 have been reckoned assuming that one tonne of carbon corresponds to 3.67 tonnes of CO_2 and that one tonne of fuel is equivalent to 3.15 tonnes of CO_2.

	Carbon emitted (Mt)	*CO_2 emitted (Mt)*	*Fuel (Mt)*
2000	8.3	30.4	9.6
(2005)	(9.2)	(33.8)	(10.7)
2010	10.2	37.3	11.8
(2015)	(12.1)	(44.4)	(14.1)
2020	14.0	51.4	16.3
2025	(15.3)	(56.2)	(17.8)
2030	16.6	61.1	19.4

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the consumption of hydrocarbons within the air transport sector in England was in each five year period since 1990. [5028]

Ms Buck: The information is not available in the form requested. The following table sets out the amount of aviation turbine fuel and aviation spirit uplifted in the UK. This covers domestic and international airlines, aircraft industry own use, private and business flying and armed services.

	Fuel used (million tonnes)
1990–94	33.9
1995–99	43.5
2000–03	[1]42.9

[1] Four years only—2004 available in July.

Local Authority Transport Plans

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* unclaimed and *(b)* returned sums from each local authority's local transport plans were in the last year for which figures are available. [3384]

Ms Buck: Since April 2002 local authorities have been able to keep the single capital pot funding allocated to them for maintenance and smaller schemes. Typically we fund major schemes by 50 per cent. borrowing approvals and 50 per cent. by grant. Before prudential borrowing was introduced, the borrowing support for major schemes was provided through Supplementary Credit Approvals (SCA), and any returned SCAs were reallocated annually.

Following the introduction of prudential borrowing the Department carried out a final SCA reallocation exercise in respect of 2003–04 in August 2004. The amounts were as follows:

Final reallocation of SCAs in respect of 2003–04 amount rounded to nearest £000

Region	*Authority*	*Scheme*	*Returned SCAs reallocated to the same scheme*	*Returned SCAs reallocated to another authority*
GO-NE	Newcastle	Scotswood Road Improvement Phase III	181	—
GO-NE	Newcastle	Quayside Public Transport	1,230	—
GO-NE	Newcastle	Central Motorway East	438	—
GO-NE	Gateshead	Centrelink	2,752	—
GO-NE	Tyne and Wear PTA	For Lane Ends Interchange	23	—
GO-NE	Tyne and Wear PTA	Stephenson Link	1,397	—
GO-NE	Tyne and Wear PTA	Metro Track Dualling	—	500
GO-SE	Oxfordshire	Detrunking of the A41	1,604	—
GO-SE	Hampshire	A3 Integrated Major Public Transport Scheme	—	785
GO-SE	Kent	Fastrack Major Scheme	—	164
GO-YH	Leeds	Leeds Supertram	6,000	—
GO-NW	Salford	Cadishead Way	—	3,073
GO-EM	Derbyshire	Upper Derwent Charging Scheme	95	—
GO-East	Cambridgeshire	Fordham Bypass	186	—
GO-East	Southend	Priory Crescent	159	—
		Full reserve fed into reallocation	—	6,478
		Total	14,065	11,000

Under the prudential borrowing system a local authority is supported by the allocation of Supported Capital Expenditure (SCE). The SCAs in the final reallocation were allocated as SCEs. A local authority may carry forward unused SCEs for a reasonable period as judged by the Department.

The grant support for local authority public transport major schemes is paid through Public Transport Facilities Grant.

The latest figures available for unclaimed Public Transport Facilities Grant cover 2003–04 and are detailed as follows.

Region	Local authority	Scheme	Amount allocated—rounded to (£000)	Amount claimed (£000)	Difference—unclaimed in 2003–04 (£000)
GONE	Tyne and Wear PTE (Nexus)	Tyne and Wear Track Dualling	500	155	345
GONE	Newcastle City Council	Quayside Public Transport	1,004	658	346
GONW	Greater Manchester PTA	Manchester Metrolink Phase 3	63,000	26,150	36,850
GOSE	Portsmouth CC	South Hampshire Rapid Transit	1,444	0	1,444
GOSE	Hampshire CC	South Hampshire Rapid Transit	1,217	0	1,217
GOWM	Warwickshire CC	Nuneaton Development Project	799	610	189
GONW	Greater Manchester PTA	Northern Orbital Quality Bus Corridor	1,600	712	888
GONW	Greater Manchester PTA	South East Manchester Quality Bus Network (SEMMMS)	3,000	892	2,108

M26/M20

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the study into the provision of lighting at the convergence of the M26 and M20 at junction 3 has commenced; when it is expected to be completed; and what its anticipated cost is; [4569]

(2) how many accidents there have been at the convergence of the M26 and M20 at junction 3 in each of the last 10 years, broken down by degree of seriousness of personal injury sustained. [4570]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has commissioned a study into the provision of lighting at junction 3 of the M20, which will be completed later this year, at a cost of approximately £3,000.

Over the last 10 years there have been 165 accidents on the M20 starting at Trottiscliffe Road Bridge at junction 3 down to the on and off slips at junction 5. The table shows the number of accidents broken down by degree of seriousness of personal injury.

Number of accidents: Boundary at Trottiscliffe Road Bridge to junction 5 before on/off slips

	Fatal	Serious	Slight
1994	0	0	6
1995	0	1	4
1996	2	1	10
1997	0	1	7
1998	0	2	10
1999	1	0	11
2000	1	3	27
2001	2	1	20
2002	0	0	13
2003	1	4	12
2004	0	4	21
Total	7	17	141

MOT Computerisation Programme

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for the introduction of the MOT computerisation programme; and what it was when the contract to run the system was awarded. [3959]

Dr. Ladyman: The original contracted date for the first MOT stations to be computerised was May 2002. MOT computerisation went live for the first garages from 18 April 2005.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in the testing of the MOT computerisation system by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and Siemens Business Systems. [3988]

Dr. Ladyman: MOT computerisation underwent three phases of test and trials; one stage of office based user acceptance testing followed by two phases trialing the system in garages. The test and trials have now concluded; the system went live on 18 April 2005.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the MOT computerisation system to be fully operational. [4009]

Dr. Ladyman: MOT computerisation began being rolled out operationally to garages on 18 April 2005.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment was made of the MOT computerisation trial at 50 garages in 2004; and what conclusions were reached. [4010]

Dr. Ladyman: The second stage of trials in autumn 2004 initially involved 37 garages. Faults were discovered that needed to be corrected and retested so the trial was extended by a further three weeks and was broadened to include 72 garages. Following completion of the extended trial it was concluded that the service should proceed to the final stage of trials which started in February 2005.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the planned installation of the MOT computerisation programme in 1,000 MOT garages is expected to be completed; when the service is due to go live; and when it will be extended to all other MOT garages. [4011]

Dr. Ladyman: MOT computerisation went live on 18 April 2005. There are currently 2,730 garages who have conducted tests using the new system. The roll out of the system to all remaining testing stations depend on continued satisfactory performance and is planned to be completed by 31 March 2006.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was at today's prices of the original contract with Siemens Business Services to run the MOT computerisation programme; when this contract was awarded; how much has been spent to date; and what estimate he has made of how much will have been spent by the time the system is operational. [4012]

Dr. Ladyman: The cost of the contract with Siemens Business Services (SBS) to run the computerised MOT service is £1.09 per test at today's prices. As roll out of the system to the garages has commenced, payments to SBS have also commenced.

The MOT Computerisation Contract was awarded in 2000. Expenditure on the project to the start of rollout (18 April 2005) has been £24 million. Expenditure by the time the service is rolled out to all testing stations is estimated to be £30.5 million.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the progress of the MOT computerisation programme; and what assessment *(a)* has been conducted and *(b)* is planned of the (i) effectiveness and (ii) value for money of its implementation. [4013]

Dr. Ladyman: MOT computerisation went live in garages on 18 April 2005. To date 2,730 garages have used the new system and in excess of 340,000 tests have been recorded onto the database.

A report on the effectiveness and value for money of the implementation of the service was conducted by the National Audit Office during 2004.

Race Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3535]

Ms Buck: All staff within the Department for Transport and its Executive agencies who are responsible for conducting Race Impact Assessments have attended training or are due to attend. This includes both the general and the specific duty. Further impact assessment training will be delivered as and when there is a need to train more assessors.

Information about the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the General and Specific Duty, and the Race Equality Scheme 2005–08 has been communicated to all staff via internal bulletins, intranet sites, induction training and included within diversity and equality training.

Number of staff who have attended training specifically on impact assessments, general and specific duty within the Department and Executive agencies

Pay band	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Mixed ethnic background*	*Ethnicity other*	*Ethnicity unknown*
PBS1	—	—	—	—	—	—
PBS3	—	—	—	—	—	—
AA	1	—	—	—	—	—
AO	8	1	—	—	—	2
EO	30	2	1	1	—	1
HEO	36	1	1	—	—	15
SEO	23	1	—	—	—	6
Grade 7	20	—	1	—	—	—
Grade 6	11	—	—	—	1	1
PB8	3	—	—	—	—	—
SCS	26	—	—	—	—	—
Total staff	158	5	3	1	1	26

Note:
Total staff = 194

Future training planned for 2005–06

Further training for impact assessments is scheduled within in some Executive agencies for 2005 to increase the number of staff trained in this area.

The central Department is also reviewing how to train all staff in the general and specific duty in 2005–06. This would increase the number of staff trained in the centre by a further 1,500 which is being considered to be mandatory training.

In addition, DVLA is also currently reviewing the training options available to include general and specific duty training to all staff, and expects to start this training later in 2005. This would involve training a further 7,000 members of staff.

Rail Passengers Council

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the consultants Odgers, Ray and Berndtson conducting the selection process for the members of the Rail Passengers Council were chosen. [3928]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport selected Odgers, Ray and Berndtson from the list of 16 firms included in the Cabinet Office executive search call off contract to assist in the appointment of members of the Rail Passengers Council.

Railways

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Department's plans are for the East Coast Main Line. [4382]

Derek Twigg: The new East Coast Inter City franchise commenced on 1 May 2005. Among the obligations within the new franchise are additional services to Leeds and the development of a study into the electrification of the rail network between Neville Hill and Hambleton South Junction. Later this month the SRA plans to publish a review summarising the work to date on the supply and demand for ECML train services and the options that can be considered for the future. It is planned that Network Rail, who have the responsibility for route utilisation, will consult further on the requirements for the line.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances of trespass there were on railways in the UK in each of the last five years. [4705]

Derek Twigg: According to the rail industry's Safety Management Information System (SMIS) data, the total numbers of trespass cases recorded on the national rail network in Great Britain for each of the last five years are as follows:

	Trespass cases recorded
2000	11,147
2001	11,487
2002	12,034
2003	11,933
2004	11,196

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities arising from trespass there were on railways in the UK in each of the last five years. [4706]

Derek Twigg: According to the rail industry's Safety Management Information System (SMIS), fatalities due to trespass in the Great Britain in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Suicides and suspected suicides	*Other trespasser fatalities*	*Total fatalities*
2000	205	63	268
2001	190	52	242
2002	207	48	255
2003	183	49	232
2004	196	37	233

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average fine for trespass on railways in the UK was in each of the last five years. [4708]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maximum fine available for trespass on UK railways was in each of the last five years. [4709]

Derek Twigg: In each of the last five years, the maximum fine for trespassing on the railways in contravention of section 55(1) of the British Transport Commission Act 1949 has been £1,000.

Road Charging

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what account will be taken in drawing up further proposals for road charging of the effects of the London congestion charge on *(a)* numbers of people travelling and *(b)* methods of transport used; [3824]

(2) what estimate the Department has made of the cost of gantry construction and installation in connection with a road pricing system in the whole of the United Kingdom. [4556]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given today to the hon. Members for Dundee, East (Stewart Hosie) and for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what account will be taken of *(a)* engine size, *(b)* emissions and *(c)* fuel efficiency when calculating road charging prices; [2880]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on tourism of a road charging scheme; [2881]

(3) if he will make a statement on plans for a pay-as-you-go drive system. [2949]

Dr. Ladyman: In line with its manifesto commitments, the Government will examine the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing.

The Feasibility Study of Road Pricing in the UK, published by the Department for Transport in July 2004, concluded that a scheme could reduce congestion by some 40 per cent. and achieve benefits of up to £12 billion a year in time savings and increased reliability. This would bring benefits for the economy as a whole and individuals using the road network for business and leisure.

The Feasibility Study recognised that before road pricing could be implemented much more work would need to be done. It is too early to specify all the details of a scheme, or to determine precisely its impacts. It will be important to learn from the experiences of charging schemes already in place, such as the London Congestion Charge. We need to design a system that works at a reasonable cost, with clear benefits to road users as well as the country as a whole. Key considerations include the need to safeguard our environmental objectives, respect privacy and the setting of prices.

More detailed work is now being taken forward to allow a decision to be made about whether national road pricing should be introduced and what form it should take.

Safety Cameras

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many safety cameras are operated by each safety camera partnership in England, broken down by *(a)* fixed cameras and *(b)* mobile cameras. [4915]

Dr. Ladyman: For information on the number of fixed and mobile speed camera sites broken down by partnership, I refer to my answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 617–19W. Further detailed information is available from partnerships.

South Hampshire Light Rail Scheme

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Government will announce their decision on the funding of the revised South Hampshire Light Rail Scheme. [4712]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 15 June 2005]*: We will announce our decision soon.

Traffic Accidents (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal traffic accidents there were in (i) Brent, East and (ii) each London borough in each year since 1997. [2538]

Dr. Ladyman: The numbers of fatal and non-fatal accidents in the Brent, East parliamentary constituency for the years 1997 to 2003 (the latest year available) are shown in the following table.

Accidents by severity: Brent East constituency 1997 to 2003

Accidents

	Fatal	*Injury*
1997	2	459
1998	2	457
1999	2	461
2000	5	509
2001	2	453
2002	1	422
2003	0	414

The equivalent information for each London borough is shown in the following table.

Accidents by severity: London boroughs 1997–03

Accidents

	1997			*1998*		
Local authority	*Fatal*	*Injured*	*All*	*Fatal*	*Injured*	*All*
Westminster	16	2,525	2,541	8	2,627	2,635
Camden	13	1,470	1,483	5	1,424	1,429
Islington	6	1,168	1,174	7	1,282	1,289
Hackney	7	1,172	1,179	9	1,162	1,171
Tower Hamlets	8	1,025	1,033	6	1,144	1,150
Greenwich	10	1,068	1,078	10	1,025	1,035
Lewisham	5	1,357	1,362	8	1,310	1,318
Southwark	8	1,547	1,555	9	1,591	1,600
Lambeth	12	1,808	1,820	13	1,788	1,801
Wandsworth	7	1,338	1,345	6	1,236	1,242
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	937	943	6	874	880
Kensington and Chelsea	8	1,067	1,075	8	1,056	1,064
Waltham Forest	8	924	932	7	980	987
Redbridge	8	1,090	1,098	5	1,083	1,088
Havering	8	1,056	1,064	4	1,057	1,061
Barking and Dagenham	5	781	786	3	750	753
Newham	3	1,117	1,120	2	1,160	1,162
Bexley	4	726	730	6	690	696
Bromley	8	1,233	1,241	10	1,166	1,176
Croydon	5	1,538	1,543	7	1,486	1,493
Sutton	2	710	712	3	680	683
Merton	7	694	701	4	691	695
Kingston upon Thames	8	654	662	6	614	620
Richmond upon Thames	3	736	739	4	668	672
Hounslow	11	1,330	1,341	9	1,227	1,236
Hillingdon	18	1,294	1,312	5	1,170	1,175
Ealing	11	1,620	1,631	8	1,491	1,499
Brent	6	1,344	1,350	11	1,302	1,313
Harrow	5	713	718	6	680	686
Barnet	14	1,554	1,568	10	1,610	1,620
Haringey	6	989	995	2	1,057	1,059
Enfield	14	1,406	1,420	9	1,415	1,424
London Airport	0	124	124	0	98	98
City of London	3	458	461	4	444	448
Greater London	263	38,573	38,836	220	38,038	38,258

Accidents

	1999			*2000*		
Local authority	*Fatal*	*Injured*	*All*	*Fatal*	*Injured*	*All*
Westminster	12	2,582	2,594	19	2,497	2,516
Camden	10	1,441	1,451	8	1,426	1,434
Islington	9	1,237	1,246	10	1,271	1,281
Hackney	4	1,227	1,231	9	1,202	1,211
Tower Hamlets	13	1,189	1,202	10	1,130	1,140
Greenwich	4	1,059	1,063	4	1,066	1,070
Lewisham	6	1,333	1,339	7	1,255	1,262
Southwark	7	1,613	1,620	10	1,505	1,515
Lambeth	3	1,903	1,906	10	1,791	1,801
Wandsworth	9	1,232	1,241	9	1,256	1,265

Accidents

Local authority	1999 Fatal	1999 Injured	1999 All	2000 Fatal	2000 Injured	2000 All
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	949	955	4	922	926
Kensington and Chelsea	6	1,030	1,036	5	1,050	1,055
Waltham Forest	5	967	972	10	977	987
Redbridge	6	1,153	1,159	14	1,157	1,171
Havering	13	1,019	1,032	9	817	826
Barking and Dagenham	6	749	755	6	765	111
Newham	6	1,158	1,164	3	1,108	1,111
Bexley	3	725	728	5	710	715
Bromley	14	1,141	1,155	9	1,004	1,013
Croydon	7	1,552	1,559	15	1,401	1,416
Sutton	8	655	663	7	624	631
Merton	5	696	701	5	691	696
Kingston upon Thames	3	538	541	3	483	486
Richmond upon Thames	4	625	629	2	677	679
Hounslow	8	1,096	1,104	7	1,215	1,222
Hillingdon	15	1,155	1,170	10	1,223	1,233
Ealing	17	1,595	1,612	8	1,527	1,535
Brent	11	1,327	1,338	14	1,323	1,337
Harrow	8	692	700	7	607	614
Barnet	15	1,563	1,578	8	1,543	1,551
Haringey	2	983	985	7	1,244	1,251
Enfield	8	1,377	1,385	12	1,434	1,446
London Airport	0	84	84	0	107	107
City of London	1	469	470	4	413	417
Greater London	254	38,114	38,368	270	37,421	37,691

Accidents

Local authority	2001 Fatal	2001 Injured	2001 All	2002 Fatal	2002 Injured	2002 All
Westminster	15	2,377	2,392	15	2,095	2,110
Camden	9	1,432	1,441	8	1,217	1,225
Islington	8	1,237	1,245	8	1,096	1,104
Hackney	8	1,234	1,242	10	1,027	1,037
Tower Hamlets	5	1,165	1,170	10	920	930
Greenwich	13	1,098	1,111	9	1,035	1,044
Lewisham	14	1,238	1,252	9	1,200	1,209
Southwark	14	1,521	1,535	8	1,438	1,446
Lambeth	16	1,714	1,730	9	1,642	1,651
Wandsworth	6	1,229	1,235	5	1,204	1,209
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	892	898	4	794	798
Kensington and Chelsea	7	850	857	7	741	748
Waltham Forest	11	871	882	6	839	845
Redbridge	10	1,183	1,193	9	1,021	1,030
Havering	13	960	973	7	908	915
Barking and Dagenham	3	693	696	9	607	616
Newham	8	1,094	1,102	6	950	956
Bexley	8	712	720	8	741	749
Bromley	9	1,013	1,022	9	1,097	1,106
Croydon	8	1,285	1,293	13	1,217	1,230
Sutton	5	648	653	6	532	538
Merton	5	662	667	5	656	661
Kingston upon Thames	4	460	464	3	444	447
Richmond upon Thames	2	672	674	7	592	599
Hounslow	11	1,184	1,195	10	1,093	1,103
Hillingdon	5	1,191	1,196	6	1,133	1,139
Ealing	16	1,571	1,587	16	1,477	1,493
Brent	9	1,227	1,236	4	1,195	1,199
Harrow	5	640	645	4	556	560
Barnet	11	1,459	1,470	14	1,443	1,457
Haringey	13	1,125	1,138	12	1,004	1,016
Enfield	14	1,317	1,331	7	1,372	1,379
London Airport	1	82	83	1	69	70
City of London	2	421	423	3	378	381
Greater London	294	36,457	36,751	267	33,733	34,000

Accidents

Local authority	*Fatal*	*2003 Injured*	*All*
Westminster	11	2,115	2,126
Camden	5	1,137	1,142
Islington	9	991	1,000
Hackney	4	1,001	1,005
Tower Hamlets	5	894	899
Greenwich	7	998	1,005
Lewisham	11	1,156	1,167
Southwark	4	1,411	1,415
Lambeth	13	1,492	1,505
Wandsworth	10	1,019	1,029
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	786	792
Kensington and Chelsea	9	719	728
Waltham Forest	6	832	838
Redbridge	7	987	994
Havering	16	831	847
Barking and Dagenham	6	574	580
Newham	4	915	919
Bexley	4	601	605
Bromley	13	874	887
Croydon	13	1,132	1,145
Sutton	6	541	547
Merton	6	587	593
Kingston upon Thames	3	429	432
Richmond upon Thames	2	609	611
Hounslow	7	1,013	1,020
Hillingdon	5	1,047	1,052
Ealing	17	1,369	1,386
Brent	2	1,137	1,139
Harrow	9	539	548
Barnet	19	1,336	1,355
Haringey	12	986	998
Enfield	7	1,190	1,197
London Airport	0	44	44
City of London	1	293	294
Greater London	259	31,585	31,844

Vehicle Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information he has about the average percentage of vehicle components removed from vehicles for reuse at end-of-life disposal in each year since 1985. [4477]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

Although detailed figures are not routinely collected, various studies by Government and industry in recent years estimate that parts for re-use accounts for between 6 per cent. and 11 per cent. of the total weight of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs).

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Affordable Homes

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what central Government assistance is available to Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council to provide the number of affordable homes they have been set. [3652]

Yvette Cooper: The main funding for affordable housing is provided through the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme. Decisions on the allocation of these funds are taken in the light of priorities set out in Regional Housing Strategies, reflecting provision for new housing in the planning system, and the quality and value for money in bids received from housing associations and other bodies. Around £1.2 million in total has been allocated for the two years 2004–05 and 2005–06.

There are other funding streams, e.g. the private finance initiative, the new first-time buyer initiative, which, directly or indirectly, support the provision of additional affordable housing. It is also open to local authorities to put funds into this where it is a local priority.

BMG Research (Surveys)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many surveys have been sent out to residents in *(a)* England, *(b)* Adur and *(c)* Worthing on behalf of his Department by BMG Research entitled, "Your views on your local council"; and who pays for the surveys. [4627]

Mr. Woolas: BMG have sent 8,000 questionnaires to individuals across England as part of a national survey of public satisfaction with local government and its services they are undertaking for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. As part of this sample, 10 questionnaires were mailed to individuals in Adur and 22 to individuals in Worthing.

The survey is funded from the ODPM Local and Regional Government Research Programme.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much has been paid to BMG Research for surveys on residents' views on local councils. [4628]

Mr. Woolas: BMG will be paid £36,000 plus VAT by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the national survey of public satisfaction with local government and its services. This survey is currently in the field.

Business Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish figures for the average business rates bill in each Government Office region in each year since 1997–98, including the estimated average figures for 2005–06. [4266]

Mr. Woolas: The average business rates bill in each Government Office region in each year since 1997–98, including the estimated average figures for 2005–06, are shown in the following table.

	1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*
North East	5,501	5,978	6,159	6,968	7,305
North West	5,215	5,589	5,770	6,825	7,273
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,381	5,869	6,005	6,954	7,433
East Midlands	5,716	6,142	6,251	7,237	7,670
West Midlands	5,686	6,250	6,487	7,588	7,756
Eastern	7,026	7,125	7,080	8,096	8,476
London	10,057	10,433	9,792	12,033	12,842
South East	7,208	7,759	7,796	9,212	9,705
South West	7,087	5,295	5,412	6,332	6,570

	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
North East	7,498	7,518	7,701	8,367
North West	7,646	7,708	7,793	8,086
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,664	7,623	7,773	8,317
East Midlands	7,846	7,893	7,955	8,477
West Midlands	8,003	8,055	8,192	8,672
Eastern	8,685	8,620	8,740	9,575
London	13,753	14,124	14,484	15,705
South East	10,045	10,053	10,252	11,124
South West	6,658	6,614	6,662	7,195

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what the estimated average business rates bill was in each billing authority in England in 2004–05; and what the estimated level is for 2005–06; [4292]

(2) what the net yield from business rates was in each billing authority in England in 2004–05; and what the estimated level is for 2005–06. [4291]

Mr. Woolas: The information has been made available in the Library of the House.

Canal Restoration

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the impact of planning policy guidance 13 on the restoration of canals and the route such canals take. [3760]

Yvette Cooper: Planning policy guidance note (PPG) 13 states that proposals for waterside development should seek to enhance the use, enjoyment and setting of the adjacent waterway. Local authorities should work with all those concerned in the inland waterways industry to develop the potential of inland waterways. In liaison with British Waterways or other navigation authorities, the Environment Agency in its regulatory capacity, the Inland Waterways Association and local waterway organisations, local authorities should identify and where appropriate protect disused waterways where there is a reasonable degree of certainty of a restoration project proceeding within the plan period.

Car Boot Sales

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the operation of regulations on car boot sales; and if he will make a statement. [3173]

Yvette Cooper: In January 2002, a consultation paper was issued on possible options for change to the planning regulations over temporary uses, including car boot sales. The paper sought views from all interested parties. The overwhelming consensus in response to the consultation paper was to retain the existing provisions. In consequence, we announced on 21 August 2002 that there would be no change to the temporary use planning provisions.

Chief Executives

John Hemming: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his Department's policy is on whether local authorities should be required to have a chief executive. [3789]

Mr. Woolas: The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that each principal local authority must designate one of its officers as a Head of Paid Service, who undertakes the overall management of the authority.

Construction (Litchfield)

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will meet the Chief Executive of Staffordshire county council to discuss *(a)* the route of the Lichfield southern bypass, *(b)* the construction of associated housing by Persimmon Homes and *(c)* the impact on the route of the restored Lichfield canal. [3978]

Yvette Cooper: This is a local issue for Staffordshire county council, Lichfield district council and the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust to resolve.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the average council tax per dwelling figures compiled by his Department are a mean or median measure; and for what reason the measure is used. [4175]

Mr. Woolas: The average council tax per dwelling is a mean, rather than a median, measure. It is defined as the council tax requirement divided by the number of chargeable dwellings in an area.

The average council tax per dwelling measure is used to compare the amounts of council tax payable in different local authority areas.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* caravans, *(b)* stand-alone private garages, *(c)* armed forces barracks, *(d)* hostels and *(e)* properties occupied by squatters, are liable for council tax. [4245]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Caravans are not in themselves subject to council tax, but liability for council tax may arise in respect of the land (pitch) on which the caravan stands. A pitch occupied by a caravan which is somebody's sole or main residence is deemed to be a "dwelling" for council tax purposes and will therefore attract a council tax liability in the same way as other domestic types of property.

(b) Generally, a stand alone private garage is only liable for council tax to the extent that it forms part of a larger property which itself is liable for council tax.

(c) Living accommodation for UK armed forces which is owned by the Ministry of Defence is exempt from council tax. Contributions in lieu of council tax are payable to billing authorities by the Ministry of Defence to broadly match the amount of council tax which would otherwise have been payable. Service personnel make a contribution to this cost from their wages.

(d) Hostels—as defined in the Council Tax (Discount Disregards) Order 1992—are liable for council tax. The owner, rather than the residents, will be liable for paying the council tax.

(e) Properties occupied by squatters will be liable for council tax in the same way as any other dwellings.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether there is a de minimis rule for small dwellings for the purposes of council tax valuation. [4319]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the revised council tax valuation list will be available to the public following the council tax revaluation in England. [4321]

Mr. Woolas: The draft list will be made available on 1 September 2006 and the final list will be made available on 1 April 2007.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average collection rate was for council tax for Travellers in the last year for which figures are available. [4323]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether asylum seekers without leave to remain are liable for council tax. [4325]

Mr. Woolas: The liability of asylum seekers for council tax depends on the circumstances of the particular case.

Liability for council tax normally falls to the residents of a dwelling. However, where accommodation is provided to asylum seekers under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, then liability falls to the owner.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many, and what proportion of appeals to *(a)* the valuation tribunal and *(b)* the High Court, against a council tax valuation, were successful in the last year for which figures are available. [4327]

Mr. Woolas: In 2004–05, 4,903 council tax appeals against valuation were decided by valuation tribunals in England. 723 (14.7 per cent.) appeals were successful.

In the same year, one decision of a valuation tribunal in England relating to a council tax appeal against valuation was appealed to the High Court. To date, this appeal remains outstanding.

Deprived Areas

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps are being taken to encourage enterprise and entrepreneurialism in deprived areas. [4332]

Mr. Woolas: In the March 2005 Budget, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced proposals for a new Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) with the aim to provide flexible, devolved investment in the most deprived areas to support locally-developed and owned proposals that pursue new or proven ways of stimulating economic activity and productivity through enterprise development.

LEGI will be worth £300 million over the three years 2006–07 to 2008–09 and £10 million will be made available this year to help eligible areas develop proposals. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is consulting on the proposals until 30 June 2005 and would welcome views from all stakeholders.

The initiative have been designed to complement the work of the Regional Development Agencies and existing Government initiatives for increasing enterprise and entrepreneurship in deprived areas, such as the Phoenix Fund, the Enterprise Areas scheme, the Under-served Markets Project and the recently developed business engagement toolkit for local strategic partnerships.

Housing (Overcrowding)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of social housing tenants who are *(a)* white and *(b)* black or ethnic minority live in overcrowded accommodation. [4367]

Yvette Cooper: It is estimated that in 2003–04 in England the proportion of social housing tenants living in accommodation which failed the "bedroom standard" were *(a)* 3 per cent. for white households and *(b)* 14 per cent. for black and minority ethnic households. The figures are derived from the Survey of English Housing.

Local Authorities (Expenditure/Indemnities)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish figures listing the capital expenditure for each local authority in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [4270]

Mr. Woolas: The figures requested have been made available in the Library of the House and relate to the financial year 2003–04, the latest year for which outturn figures are available.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will revise the Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004 to provide for circumstances in which a member of a minority party on a council seeks an indemnity from a council which is refused *(a)* as a result of the votes of the majority party and *(b)* where a technical breach of the code has been found, but no penalty imposed and no further action taken. [3896]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have no plans to amend the Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004. These issues were considered before the Order was made.

Local Government Standards Board

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will require the Local Government Standards Board *(a)* to account separately for the costs of cases that were (i) proven and (ii) dismissed and *(b)* further to break down those costs by stage of the investigation and adjudication procedure; and if he will make a statement. [3818]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no plans to require the Standards Board for England to provide information in the form referred to.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of the cases disposed of *(a)* directly by the Standards Board, *(b)* after an adjudication panel and *(c)* after a local standards committee hearing (i) were dismissed, (ii) were found proven but no penalty imposed and (iii) were found to be vexatious complaints in each of the last three years. [3820]

Mr. Woolas: This information requested is in the table.

Cases	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Not referred for investigation	1,689	2,144	3,029
Investigations producing finding of no evidence of a breach of the code of conduct	113	154	310
Investigations producing finding that no action is required in respect of the matters under investigation	225	462	947
Total number of determinations made by the adjudication panel for England	30	130	59
Adjudication panel determinations that there was no breach of the code of conduct	1	4	8
Adjudication panel determinations that no further action is required	0	3	7
Total number of determinations made by local standards committees	[1]n/a	39	72
Local standards committees' determinations that there was no evidence of a breach of the code of conduct	[1]n/a	2	4
Local standards committees' determinations that no further action is required	[1]n/a	3	8

[1] Regulations providing for cases to be referred to local standards committees for investigation and determination were not in place in 2002–03.

The Standards Board does not hold information on the number of apparently 'vexatious' complaints received.

Lyons Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Lyons Review will consider the introduction of a capital value system in its assessment of local government finance. [4294]

Mr. Woolas: It is for Sir Michael Lyons to decide what to consider within his terms of reference.

National Spatial Address Infrastructure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what access political parties will have to the National Spatial Address Infrastructure database; and if he will make a statement. [4281]

Mr. Woolas: The proposed specification and plans to deliver the National Spatial Address Infrastructure are set out in the outline prospectus published by The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 26 May 2005.

The outline prospectus sets out a governance process that will encourage participation at a number of levels.

The Government are seeking comments from interested parties on a range of issues set out in the outline prospectus, by the end of June 2005. These issues include an outline of supply arrangements for the National Spatial Address Infrastructure and it would be inappropriate to comment on specific access issues at this stage.

Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Government intends to revoke the local government pension scheme (amendment) (No. 2) regulations 2004. [4302]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister is considering responses received to the recently concluded statutory consultation exercise on draft regulations which have the effect of revoking the local government pension scheme (amendment) (No 2) regulations 2004. A decision will be issued in due course.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the current asset value of the Local Government Pension Scheme is *(a)* in England and *(b)* across the United Kingdom. [4303]

Mr. Woolas: The actuarial valuation of the local government pension scheme in England and Wales as at 31 March 2004 shows the asset value for funds in England to be £80.7 billion and £4.8 billion for funds in Wales. No comparable figure is available for the remainder of the UK.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of the local government pension scheme's liabilities are funded. [4304]

Mr. Woolas: The actuarial valuation exercise for the local government pension scheme in England and Wales, as at 31 March 2004, showed that the 89 separate funds which make up the scheme had assets covering 73 per cent. of their liabilities, as assessed by the independent actuaries. The actuaries have set new employers' contribution rates, effective from 1 April 2005, in each of these funds to secure their ongoing solvency.

Performance Targets

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government have to reduce the number of performance targets on local authorities. [4307]

Mr. Woolas: In March this year the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published 'Securing better outcomes: developing a new performance framework' as part of our work on a 10 year strategy for local government. We highlighted the need to find a better balance between national and local targets for local government and its partners and to reduce the number of targets not directly related to PSAs or national standards. Over the coming months we will be considering how to achieve these aims.

Public Toilets

John Hemming: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 563W, on public toilets, what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the reduction

in the number of public toilets; and what assessment he has made of the public health and environmental consequences of the change. [4616]

Mr. Woolas: As stated in my previous answer on 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 563W, the provision and maintenance of toilets in public places is at the discretion of local authorities who have, under section 87 of the Public Health Act 1936, a power to provide public conveniences, but no duty to do so.

It is therefore for individual local authorities to decide whether or not to provide public toilets and, if so, how many. In doing this, each local authority must balance the competing priorities of a whole range of services. The vast majority of government support is paid as a block grant, so that local authorities have considerable freedom to determine their own spending priorities.

Supporting People Programme

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to publish the revised formula for the allocation of funds for Supporting People; and what consultation he plans to undertake on the formula. [4573]

Mr. Woolas: The current version of the Supporting People distribution formula is being developed in cooperation with representatives from local government. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister plans to consult on a revised model for distributing funds shortly.

Unitary Authorities

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will rule out establishing unitary authorities in areas where a referendum has not given the assent of the people; and if he will make a statement. [3769]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 406–07.

Voluntary Organisations (Grants)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department gave in grants to voluntary organisations in each London borough in the last year for which figures are available. [2534]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not collected centrally by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister across all programmes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to bring forward legislation to replace the testing of animals under the REACH proposals with a testing strategy that uses advanced scientific techniques for *(a)* safety testing and *(b)* risk assessment without using animals; and if she will make a statement. [4147]

Mr. Morley: The REACH proposals will require industry to provide data on chemicals to enable an assessment to be made of their potential harm to the environment and human health. There will in some cases be a legal requirement for the use of animals for safety testing in much the same way as the current requirements for chemicals under existing regimes. However, the REACH regulation will require that all existing data from animal tests and alternative methods of generating data are taken into consideration before any new animal testing is carried out.

The Government are committed to minimising the numbers of animals used for safety testing and risk assessments under REACH and is supporting work aimed at the development of integrated testing strategies based on existing data, advanced modelling approaches and in vitro testing methods that do not require the use of animals. However, before the new methods can be accepted by regulatory authorities, there is a need for the methods to be fully validated as fit for purpose. It is also very unlikely that alternative methods will be available in the short term for certain toxicity endpoints, particularly those involving long-term exposure to chemicals.

Beavers

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the effects of introducing beavers in Scotland to the ecology of the UK; and what representations she has received in connection with plans by the Scottish Executive to proceed with release of beavers in Scotland from *(a)* English Nature and *(b)* other bodies and organisations. [4914]

Jim Knight: Responsibility for nature conservation in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Parliament. No re-introduction of beavers into the wild in Scotland can take place without a licence granted by the Scottish Executive. Scottish Ministers are currently considering an application from Scottish Natural Heritage to re-introduce beavers but have not yet reached a conclusion.

English Nature supports the proposal by Scottish Natural Heritage, on the grounds that it is properly researched and meets the requirements of the IUCN guidelines on introductions. However, they recognise that the re-introduction of a species that has been absent for several hundred years must proceed with great care, and address the concerns of a wide variety of interest groups. They advise that the next step should be to undertake a small scale trial re-introduction to improve predictions on impact and spread.

No other representations have been received on this issue by Defra.

Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of carbon emissions from oil and gas producers operating in the North Sea was in the last period for which figures are available; what allocation they have been awarded under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [3128]

Mr. Morley: The Approved National Allocation Plan for the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, as published on 24 May, details the historic emissions and allocation methodology for the distribution of allowances to all sectors and installations covered by the scheme. Annual

emissions from the 88 offshore installations covered by the EU ETS were 14.3 million tonnes carbon dioxide in 2003. The annual allocation to offshore installations in Phase I (2005–07) of the Scheme is 14.4 million allowances.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government are on target to reduce carbon emissions *(a)* as agreed under the Kyoto protocol and *(b)* by 20 per cent. by 2010. [4696]

Mr. Morley: Estimates published in March this year suggest that in 2004 UK greenhouse gas emissions were provisionally about 12.5 per cent. below base year levels. The data released in March also indicate that, even without the further action currently being considered under the review of the UK Climate Change Programme, the UK will be about 20 per cent. below base year levels in 2010. The UK is therefore on course to meet its Kyoto protocol commitment to reduce emissions of a basket of six greenhouse gases by 12.5 per cent. below base level years by 2008–12. This is a significant achievement. On the basis of existing policies, emissions of carbon dioxide are projected to be about 13 per cent. below the 1990 level in 2010. We therefore recognise that more needs to be done if we are to meet our more challenging domestic goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2010.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent estimate is of the level of UK carbon emissions resulting in a year from electrical appliances being left in standby mode. [4451]

Mr. Morley: The most recent estimate by the Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) is that taken together consumer electronics, home computing equipment, domestic cooking equipment and office equipment in the UK produced approximately 800,000 tonnes of carbon (c7 TWh) in the UK during 2004.

We are also aware that there is further energy consumption from white goods such as washing machines and dishwashers which are switched on awaiting use or after they have completed their wash cycles; consumer electronic equipment using external power supplies (eg domestic portable telephones) that continue to consume energy when plugged in but not in use; and domestic personal computer equipment where the stand-by facilities are not properly enabled. Taken together, these sources of consumption may bring the overall figure to around 1 million tonnes of carbon.

In order to try to tackle this problem the Market Transformation Programme (www.mtprog.com) has been encouraging manufacturers to reduce both the "on" and the stand-by power consumption of household appliances through the adoption of design improvements, voluntary codes of conduct, and best practice guidelines and targets. This approach has been fairly successful in respect of televisions: an EU-wide voluntary agreement will mean that the majority of new televisions sold in the UK now consume around 1 watt of power in stand-by mode rather than the 3–8 watts consumed by older models. This agreement is currently being extended to cover other consumer electronics.

A similar agreement for external power supplies aims to encourage new power supplies consuming around half a watt in stand-by mode compared to the present average of just over 2 watts.

The recently agreed Framework Directive for the Eco-design of Energy Using Products (EUP), which is expected to come into force later this year will provide a streamlined and effective route for setting EU-wide environmental requirements for traded goods. EUP requires the Commission and member states to treat the issue of stand by energy consumption as a priority area for consideration. The UK will work proactively with the Commission and other member states to influence and speed the delivery of measures under EUP.

In addition the Government's initiative on sustainable procurement, announced in the autumn of 2003, includes a requirement for Government Departments which purchase computers and televisions to specify low stand-by power requirements.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the daily energy consumption resulting from the use of standby units on televisions; and if she will make a statement. [4452]

Mr. Morley: The Government's Market Transformation Programme estimates that in 2004 the 62 million television sets in use in the UK consumed just over 3 million Kwh per day while in stand by mode—approximately 8 per cent. of their total average daily energy consumption.

The Market Transformation programme estimates that by 2010 the number of televisions in use in the UK will rise to 67 million.

In order to try to reduce the overall energy consumed by televisions the Market Transformation Programme (www.mtprog.com) has been encouraging manufacturers to reduce both the "on" and the "stand-by" power consumption of televisions through the adoption of design improvements, an EU wide voluntary code of conduct, and best practice guidelines and targets.

The EU-wide voluntary agreement on televisions has been fairly successful in reducing the average energy consumed by televisions in stand-by mode with the majority of new televisions sold in the UK soon to consume around 1 watt of power in stand-by mode rather than the 3–8 watts consumed by older models. This agreement is in the process of being extended to cover other consumer electronic equipment.

The recently agreed Framework Directive for the Eco-design of Energy Using Products (EUP), which is expected to come into force later this year will provide a streamlined and effective route for setting EU-wide environmental requirements for traded goods. EUP requires the Commission and member states to treat the issue of stand by energy consumption as a priority area for consideration. The UK will work proactively with the Commission and other member states to influence and speed the delivery of measures under EUP.

In addition the Government's initiative on sustainable procurement, announced in the autumn of 2003, includes a requirement for Government Departments which purchase televisions to specify televisions with stand-by power requirements of less that 1 watt.

Endangered Species

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what programmes the Government sponsors to protect and encourage the breeding of endangered species. [4582]

Jim Knight: The Government are taking a wide range of measures to protect and conserve endangered species in this country and also internationally through mechanisms such as international conservation agreements and the Government's funding schemes (for example, the Darwin Initiative and FCO's Sustainable Development Global Opportunities Fund).

More specifically on breeding of endangered species, we are also taking measures. For example, the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Kew, a non-departmental public body sponsored by Defra, carries out much important work, in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity. All living collections held at RBG Kew have undergone a conservation audit so that their endangered state is known and this material is available for propagation and reintroduction. RBG Kew assists governments to identify areas of floristic diversity which should be protected in countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Madagascar, Cameroon, Thailand and Brunei, and manages the Millennium Seed Bank Project which involves partnerships between 18 countries which seek to collect and conserve long-term, seed from 24,200 species. Seed of 96 per cent. of the seed bearing flora of the British Isles are also held in the Millennium Seed Bank. Seeds of rare and threatened species, such as the Lady's Slipper Orchid, are micro-propagated prior to reintroduction into the wild as part of the national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), managed by English Nature and other UK conservation agencies. Collections of rare UK BAP lower plants (bryophytes) are held as a cryo-preserved collection and work is currently under way to develop methods to recover and reintroduce these cryo-preserved collections.

Also, in recognition that zoos can play a role in breeding endangered species for conservation purposes, British zoos are regulated through the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 to require them to participate in conservation measures including captive-breeding programmes for endangered species of animals.

We also provide funds to a number of Darwin Initiative projects which are focused on breeding endangered species in order to contribute to their conservation in the wild. For example, the Initiative has provided three grants to the RSPB and the Institute of Zoology for work to address the catastrophic decline of Vulture species across Asia. This work has identified causes of these declines and set up a captive breeding programme to ensure survival of populations while these causes are being addressed.

Fly-tipping

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what volume of waste she estimates was illegally fly-tipped in the most recent year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* the nature of the waste and *(b)* whether it was fly-tipped in urban or rural areas; [4442]

(2) what estimated total volume of waste has been illegally fly-tipped in each year since 1992, broken down by the nature of waste. [4443]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra has worked with the Environment Agency to establish a national database on fly-tipping (Flycapture) which has been operational since April 2004. No national data were previously available on illegal waste disposal or fly-tipping.

Flycapture is a summary database of fly-tipping incidents and does not record specific volumes. The following data are a summary of incidents reported to the Flycapture system from April 2004 to March 2005 broken down by waste type and location.

	English WCAs	*EA*	*Total—April 2004 to March 2005*
Highway	365,363	19,536	384,899
Footpath bridleway	75,444	5,987	81,431
Back alleyway	92,690	5,425	98,115
Railway	790	47	837
Council land	261,545	16,598	278,143
Agricultural	3,633	391	4,024
Private residential	16,837	1,723	18,560
Commercial industrial	8,921	907	9,828
Watercourse bank	2,164	197	2,361
Other	37,682	3,362	41,044

	English WCAs	*EA*	*Total*
Animal carcass	7,148	457	7,605
Green	37,321	2,710	40,031
Vehicle parts	13,811	1,123	14,934
White goods	50,370	3,560	53,930
Other electrical	16,685	1,233	17,918
Tyres	21,463	1,631	23,094
Asbestos	2,745	240	2,985
Clinical	1,959	164	2,123
Construction/demolition/ excavation	44,787	3,334	48,121
Black bags—commercial	34,703	2,316	37,019
Black bags—household	234,103	13,149	247,252
Chemical drums of oil fuel	3,783	272	4,055
Other household	244,371	17,336	261,707
Other commercial	23,346	1,935	25,281
Other	127,964	4,713	132,677

Note:
The figures listed in the table are indicative figures from the first year of operation of the database. Data have become more consistent as users have submitted more complete returns. Defra will update its website with more detailed information on the first year's data shortly.

Game Rearing Farms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many game rearing farms are operating in England. [4521]

Jim Knight: There are approximately 200 established game farms, who rear and sell in the UK. Approximately a further 200 or so gamekeepers rear birds mainly for their own estates but also sell some to other estates. Finally, a further 1,500 gamekeepers are involved in rearing game birds for release only on their own estates.

I must emphasise that these figures are merely the industry's own best estimate for the UK as a whole. There are no actual statistics held.

GM Crops

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the planting of GM crops in Wales. [4038]

Mr. Morley: Defra keeps in regular touch with the Welsh Assembly Government on GM crop issues. This covers any applications for approval to cultivate GM crops under the EU legislative process, and the development of policy on the co-existence of GM and non-GM crops. Co-existence is a devolved matter but Defra and the devolved administrations are sharing information and ideas on possible ways forward.

Hazardous Waste

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of *(a)* the tonnage and *(b)* types of hazardous waste that will need to be treated to comply with the hazardous waste acceptance criteria coming into force on 16 July. [3452]

Mr. Bradshaw: The tonnage requiring treatment will depend on a number of factors, not least the amount arising. In 2003, some 4.8 million tonnes of special waste was consigned, and 47 per cent. was specifically consigned to treatment facilities (including recycling and reuse), 38 per cent. to landfill and 4 per cent. to incineration. Early indications suggest that arisings of hazardous waste for 2004 have declined further, though fully quality assured data will be available late in the summer.

Estimates on available capacity of hazardous waste treatment infrastructure were prepared for the Hazardous Waste Forum and posted on the Forum's website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/hazforum/statusreport.htm

Government and the Environment Agency are working closely with hazardous waste producers in the Landfill Regulation Group to assess how far treatment exists for specific waste streams in order that they may meet the waste acceptance criteria. The waste streams being considered in detail include battery recycling slag, spent pot linings and plasterboard.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the application of hazardous waste acceptance criteria coming into force on 16 July. [3453]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have transposed the requirements of Council Decision 2003/33/EC establishing the criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills in the Landfill (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004, SI 2004 No.1375. The Regulations will apply from 16 July 2005. A copy of the Regulations can be obtained from the Office of Public Sector Information at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which hazardous waste treatment facilities operating in England are able to treat hazardous waste to comply with the hazardous waste acceptance criteria; what their capacity is; and where they are located; [3454]

(2) what types of hazardous waste cannot be treated in the UK to comply with the hazardous waste acceptance criteria coming into force on 16 July; what the estimated quantities of such waste are; and when the technology required to treat this waste is expected to be operational. [3455]

Mr. Bradshaw: Almost all hazardous wastes can be treated in order to comply with the landfill waste acceptance criteria. Those that cannot may generally be treated by other technologies (which may themselves produce residues suitable for landfill) such as high temperature incineration.

Through its Landfill Regulation Group, the Environment Agency is working closely with industry and Government to identify problematic waste streams and their quantities to eliminate or mitigate any potential issues that could arise. This is being monitored by the Hazardous Waste Forum. Decisions on what if any additional technologies may be required are matters for commercial operators and subject to gaining the usual permissions for land use and environmental protection.

The Environment Agency intends to supplement its Enforcement and Prosecution Policy with an enforcement position in respect of any hazardous waste that is not capable of meeting the Waste Acceptance Criteria on 16 July 2005 for which no alternative recovery or disposal routes are available.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pollution prevention control permits the Environment Agency granted for hazardous waste treatment plants in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003, *(e)* 2004 and *(f)* 2005 to date; to which plants; and what the capacity and location of each plant is. [3456]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table gives the number of permits for hazardous waste treatment plants issued by the Environment Agency under the Pollution and Prevention and Control (England and Wales) 2000 Regulations for the years 2000–05 to date.

	Number of permits issued
2005 to date	2
2004	3
2003	5
2002	2

	Number of permits issued
2001	1
2000	0

More detailed information, giving details of the capacity and location for each of these plants is given in the table.

It should be noted that the capacity for four plants is given as >10 tonnes day. This is because this information is currently unavailable but I will write to the hon. Gentlemen when my officials have completed their investigations.

Operator name	Installation name	Date effective	PPC permit address	Capacity
Advance Waste Management Ltd.	Advance Waste Management	13 December 2001	Holbrooke Rise, Holbrooke Industrial Estate, Halfway, Sheffield, S20 3FG	No throughput capacity limits. Six month storage limit of 200m^3
Reformation Disposal Services Ltd.	Reformation Transfer Station	29 May 2002	Tollgate Road, Burscough Industrial Estate, Burscough, Ormskirk, L40 8LD	Annual capacity—1,000 tonnes
BP Exploration Operating Co. Ltd.	BP Wytch Farm Oilfield	15 July 2002	Gathering Station, Thrashers Lane, Corffe Castle, Wareham, BH20 5JR	In-house facility for BP only. No capacity limits in permit.
Octel Waste Management Ltd.	Octel Waste Treatment Centre	28 February 2003	Cheshire Waste Management Centre, Oil Sites Road, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, CH65 4HF	206,000 tonnes per year
Petroplus Tankstorage Milford Haven Ltd.	Milford Haven Tankstorage	25 April 2003	Waterston Refinery, Milford Haven, SA73 1DR	To longer treating waste. Applied to vary permit to remove the capability to treat produced water.
Oil and Water Ltd.	Shaftesbury Oil and Water	2 May 2003	20 Wincombe Business Park, Shaftsbury, SP7 9QJ	Limited to oil related wastes: No annual throughput capacity. Approx max storage capacities: above ground tanks 844m^3.; Drums 53m^3; Reception sump 60m^3; skips 12m^3
Viridor Waste (Sheffield) Ltd.	Salmon Pastures	1 October 2003	Salmon Pastures, Attercliffe Road, Sheffield, S4 7WT	To throughput capacity limits or storage capacity limit.
Alco Waste Management Ltd.	Tanhouse Waste Transfer and Recycling Centre	12 December 2003	Tanhouse Ind. Estate, Cornubia Road, Lugsdale, Widness, WA8 OSB	>10 tonnes haz waste/day
Bale Environmental Ltd.	Honiton Waste Oil Treatment Facility	23 April 2004	90 Durham Way, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton, EX14 1SQ	Waste oil >10tonnes/day
Leicester City Council	Leycroft Road Treatment Facility	24 May 2004	Leycroft Road, Beaumont Leys Liecester, LE4 1RT	120,000 litres max storage capacity (street cleaning waste, inc. oil contaminated)
LIS (North Western) Limited	LIS (North Western) Limited	14 October 2004	Unit 20, Haydock Lane, Haydock Industrial Estate, Haydock, WA11 9UQ	>10 tonnes haz waste/day
BCB Environmental Management Ltd.	Tockwith Transfer Station	31 March 2005	Unit 87 Marston Moor Business Park, Tockwith, York, YO26 7QF	Storage capacity of 50,000 tonnes/year
OSS Group Ltd.	OSS Group Ltd. Exeter	6 June 2005	Greendale Business Park, Greendale Barton, Woodbury Station, Exeter, EX5 1EN	Waste oil >10tonnes/day

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency have taken to raise awareness amongst producers of hazardous waste of the hazardous waste acceptance criteria that will be in force from 16th July 2005. [3457]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government and the Environment Agency have undertaken the following actions, many of which were of joint collaboration:

conducted seven rounds of public consultation on aspects of the Landfill Directive, two of which dealt specifically with waste acceptance criteria;

set up the Hazardous Waste Forum in December 2002 to bring together key stakeholders to advise on the way forward on the management of hazardous waste;

formed the Landfill Directive Implementation Group in March 2003. The Group provided stakeholder input into the process and negotiations in Europe that developed Council Decision 2003/33/EC establishing waste acceptance criteria and procedures;

established the Landfill and Hazardous Waste Implementation Programme (LHIP) in April 2004 to drive the changes required to successfully implement landfill and hazardous waste legislation;

set up a Communications Group for LHIP with strategic communication campaigns in place. This Group involves Defra, Environment Agency, DTI, Small Business Services, Envirowise, Environmental Services Association and Chartered Institution of Waste Management (CIWM);

set up a specialist website (www.hazardouswaste.org.uk) to provide information about landfill and hazardous waste changes;

produced leaflets and reports for distribution to waste producers to ensure they are aware of the changes;

organised two WAG seminars. The first on 6 December 2004 to continue to promote understanding of the implications in implementing WAC and to assist industries in preparations for it. The second seminar on 15 April 2005 provided a further opportunity for Government, waste managers, waste producers, regulators and policy makers, to catch up on what progress had been made towards meeting WAC;

Ministers, Government and Environment Agency officials have also spoken at many landfill and hazardous waste related events, some of which were organised by industry groups, such as ESA;

organised a series of hazardous waste road shows aimed specifically at SMEs which took place in Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham and London during April and May 2005;

produced an interpretative note (published in September 2004, available from www.defra.gov.uk) on the Landfill Regulations which cover many aspects of the Regulations, including on WAC, to help industry understand the Government's view on what the Regulations mean in practice;

the Environment Agency has published a regulatory guidance note on WAC, available on the Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk;

the Environment Agency set up a Landfill Regulation Group in April 2005 to develop a common understanding on the way forward for landfill and to act as a forward-looking forum concentrating on practical implementation of the Landfill Regulations and the impact on waste industry and the Environment Agency.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate her Department has made of the tonnage of hazardous waste that has been fly-tipped since 16 July 2004; [3458]

(2) how many incidents of fly-tipping of hazardous waste the Environment Agency's Flycapture data collection system has recorded since 16 July 2004; [3459]

(3) what estimate she has made of the tonnage of hazardous waste fly-tipped on private land since 16 July 2004 which has not been recorded by the Environment Agency's Flycapture data system. [3461]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national Flycapture database, established in April 2004, collates summary data of incidents of fly-tipping dealt with by waste collection authorities and the Environment Agency.

Flycapture does not record data specifically on hazardous fly-tips as it is broken down by other waste types. The system does not record specific tonnages. No national data are collected on tonnages of illegally dumped hazardous waste on private land.

Overall, the Environment Agency report that there has been no significant increase in fly-tipping of hazardous waste since July 2004, although there have been incidents of fly-tipping of asbestos in two regions, and these have been followed up as appropriate.

The following table sets out the number of reported incidents dealt with by waste collection authorities and the Environment Agency in England for each month from July 2004 to April 2005, as recorded on Flycapture.

Month	*Asbestos*	*Chemical drums/oil/fuel*	*Total*
July 2004	256	256	512
August 2004	242	473	715
September 2004	283	267	550
October 2004	299	311	610
November 2004	275	388	663
December 2004	193	298	491
January 2005	265	336	601
February 2005	327	674	1,001
March 2005	259	438	697
April 2005	276	385	661
Total	2,675	3,826	6,501

Note:
Hazardous waste is not a specified waste type within Flycapture so the figures provided indicate those waste streams which may include hazardous waste. It is also important to note that Flycapture is a relatively new system and data returns have been increasing as usage of the system improves.

National Enforcement Database

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions resulted in *(a)* convictions and *(b)* custodial sentences in each year since 1 May 1997 for offences related to (i) water resources, (ii) flood defences, (iii) fisheries, (iv) navigation, (v) process industry regulation, (vi) radioactive substances, (vii) waste and (viii) water quality as recorded in the national enforcement database; and what the average fines were where custodial sentences were awarded (A) in total and (B) broken down by region. [4602]

Mr. Morley: The information requested is provided in the following tables. The figures commence in April of 1999 because that is when national enforcement statistics were first recorded on the national enforcement database.

As regards what the average fines were where custodial sentences were awarded: fines and custodial sentences are not awarded against the same offence but are, in fact, mutually exclusive. It has therefore not been possible to provide any data in answer to this.

	1999 (from 1 April)		*2000*	
	Convictions	*Custodial*	*Convictions*	*Custodial*
Water resources	0	0	21	0
Flood Defence	4	0	1	0
Fisheries	0	0	29	0
Navigation	3	0	6	0
Process industry regulation	6	0	12	0
Radioactive substances	3	0	3	0
Waste	321	5	434	5
Water quality	220	0	229	0

	2001		*2002*	
	Convictions	*Custodial*	*Convictions*	*Custodial*
Water resources	10	0	11	0
Flood Defence	2	0	1	0
Fisheries	22	0	50	0

	2001		2002	
	Convictions	Custodial	Convictions	Custodial
Navigation	3	0	14	0
Process industry regulation	52	0	3	0
Radioactive substances	11	0	1	0
Waste	493	11	517	5
Water quality	237	0	408	0

	2003		2004		2005 (to 31 May)	
	Convictions	Custodial	Convictions	Custodial	Convictions	Custodial
Water resources	6	0	19	0	8	0
Flood Defence	5	0	9	0	3	0
Fisheries	35	0	39	0	24	0
Navigation	34	0	39	0	16	0
Process industry regulation	5	0	14	0	6	0
Radioactive substances	3	0	2	0	1	0
Waste	429	7	450	7	209	1
Water quality	175	0	187	1	91	0

National Fruit Collection Contract

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 259W, on the National Fruit Collection, whether it is the Department's intention to advertise the contract on the open market once the two-year contract has expired on 31 March 2007. [3287]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Defra's contract with the Brogdale Horticultural Trust for the maintenance of the National Fruit Collections (NFC) runs until 31 March 2007. Defra is currently undertaking a strategic review of the future of the National Fruit Collections which is expected to report later this year. In the meantime we have no plans to put the work to open competition.

Oil Spills

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will introduce a requirement for an annual inspection of domestic oil tanks to check the risk of oil spills. [4252]

Mr. Morley: I understand that a voluntary Tank Safety Scheme is under development by the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers and the Oil Firing Technical Association (Oftec), with support from the Environment Agency. This will combine the regular observations made by delivery drivers with the expertise of specialist registered technicians. Before considering the need for enforcement and statutory measures, this voluntary initiative needs to be given time to demonstrate that it can be effective.

Recycling

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding *(a)* councils in England, *(b)* Guildford borough council and *(c)* Waverley borough council have received to support recycling in each year since 1997. [3380]

Mr. Bradshaw: The main source of funding for local authorities' waste management services is the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) block of annual Government grant. It is for the local authorities to decide what proportion of the block is invested in waste management services, including recycling.

Funding is also being provided from a variety of other sources to help authorities improve recycling rates. The Waste Minimisation and Recycling (Challenge) Fund has made available funding totalling £275 million over the four years from 2002–03 to 2005–06 for specific projects to expand recycling operations.

Through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), credits worth £355 million have been made available over the same period as an extra source of funding, with a further £535 million available in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

In January 2004 the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment announced that a further £20 million would be given to local authorities with responsibility for waste in England to reduce spending pressures in 2004–05.

In December 2004 the Government announced a targeted local authority Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant totalling £260 million over the three years between 2005–6 and 2007–08. A full list of allocations to each authority in England in 2005–06 is available on the Defra website. Authorities will receive further allocations in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

The amounts received by Guildford and Waverley borough councils from Defra funds to support recycling are shown in the following tables:

A: Waverley borough council

£

	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund	101,970	229,809	—	—
Grant to relieve spending pressures in the waste area	—	—	47,117	—
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	—	—	—	41,055

B: Guildford borough council

£

	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund	—	182,775	191,505	—
Grant to relieve spending pressures in the waste area	—	—	30,780	—
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	—	—	—	46,648

Snaring

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action she is taking to promote *(a)* best practice and *(b)* observance of the law in relation to snaring. [4836]

Jim Knight: The Government support the legal use of snares and are committed to improving standards. An informal consultation on snares and traps and their use under UK legislation was carried out in 2003. One of the outcomes of the consultation was the convening of an independent snares working group. The aim of the working group is to agree good practice guidelines, produce a code of practice and advise DEFRA on any further work which needs to be undertaken to further improve the correct use of snares. The group is due to report by the autumn.

The illegal use of snares is irresponsible and can have a serious impact on the welfare of individual animals. If anyone suspects that snares are being used illegally they should report the matter to the police.

SSSIs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what condition each site of special scientific interest (SSSI) has been in each year since 1997; and what the total land areas of SSSIs was in each category *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by (i) region and (ii) location in each year. [4453]

Jim Knight: Under the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's Common Standards for Monitoring, SSSI condition is assessed only on a six year cycle. In England, the first cycle, completed in March 2003, showed 56.9 per cent. in favourable or recovering condition, from a total area of 1,051,498 hectares. Full results for December 2003 were published by English Nature in "The Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England in 2003".

According to the latest assessment carried out on each unit of SSSI land by 31 March 2004, 62.8 per cent. from a total of 1,076,704 hectares of SSSI land was in favourable or recovering condition at that time. The equivalent figure for 31 March 2005 was 67.4 per cent. from a total area of 1,072,538 hectares.

Information on the current condition of each SSSI in England and a summary of SSSI condition in each Government region is available on the English Nature website at www.English-Nature.org.uk.

Thames Barrier

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the occasions on which the Thames Barrier has been closed in each year since its inception; and what estimate she has made of the number of occasions when it will be closed in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2050 and *(d)* 2100. [4600]

Mr. Morley: The Thames Barrier is closed to protect London from high water levels in the River Thames. These high water levels result from tidal surge conditions in combination with high freshwater flows following rainfall over the Thames catchment. The Barrier closures may be characterised as predominantly tidal-influenced (T) or predominantly rainfall/fluvial-influenced (F). Since inception, the Thames Barrier has been closed to prevent flooding during the winter flood season (generally October to April) on 92 occasions as follows:

	Tidal	Fluvial	Total
1982–83	1	0	1
1983–84	0	0	0
1984–85	0	0	0
1985–86	0	1	1
1986–87	1	0	1
1987–88	0	0	0
1988–89	1	0	1
1989–90	1	3	4
1990–91	1	0	1
1991–92	1	0	1
1992–93	4	0	4
1993–94	3	4	7
1999–95	2	2	4
1995–96	4	0	4
1996–97	1	0	1
1997–98	1	0	1
1998–99	2	0	2
1999–00	3	3	6
2000–01	16	8	24
2001–02	3	1	4
2002–03	8	12	20
2003–04	1	0	1
2004–05	3	0	3
2005–06 (to date)	1	0	1

Forecasting the frequency of future closures of the Thames Barrier depends on two principal factors:

(a) The impacts of climate change on sea and river levels based on the climate change scenarios currently available; and

(b) The extent to which these levels may be reduced by other flood risk management measures used within the Thames Estuary in conjunction with operation of the Thames Barrier.

Depending on the balance of factors described above, The Environment Agency's early studies indicate that the estimated frequency of closures will be as follows.

2010: 10—20 closures per year
2020: 20—35 closures per year
2050: 6*—75 closures per year
2100: 30*—325 closures per year

The lower figure for each year indicates the best predicted outcome based on lowest climate change scenario impacts and maximum use of flood management mitigation measures implemented from 2030 (shown by *). The higher figure for each year indicates the worst potential outcome based on maximum climate change predicted impacts with no additional flood management mitigation measures implemented from 2030.

The Environment Agency is currently planning for the future of flood risk management within the Thames Estuary. For this purpose, it has established a project called Thames Estuary 2100 based at the Thames Barrier. The purpose of the project is to produce a flood risk management plan for the tidal part of the Thames Estuary covering the next 100 years.

Trees

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage tree cover in each EU member state was *(a)* on the latest date for which figures are available, *(b)* 10 years ago and *(c)* 20 years ago. [4444]

Jim Knight: Based on information collected by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation forest as a percentage of land area is given in the table as follows.

Country	*2000*[1]	*1990*[1]	*1980*[2]
Austria	47	46	45
Belgium/Luxembourg	22	23	23
Denmark	11	10	11
Finland	72	72	76
France	28	27	28
Germany	31	31	29
Greece	28	26	45
Ireland	10	7	6
Italy	34	33	27
Netherlands	11	11	10
Portugal	40	34	35
Spain	29	27	25
Sweden	66	66	68
United Kingdom	12	11	9

[1] FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000. Definitions of forest can vary between countries and over time.
[2] FAO The Forest Resources of the ECE Region, published 1985. The years covered vary between countries, although most are around 1980. Definitions of forest can vary between countries.

The next international compilation will be the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's Forest Resource Assessment 2005, which is expected to be published in the autumn.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* are planned to improve tree health. [4445]

Jim Knight: The need to maintain, and improve where necessary, the health and vitality of trees is integral to the Government's approach to sustainable forest management. We have set this out in the UK Forestry Standard and its supporting literature, which contain many specific measures for protecting woodland and improving tree health. All woodland management by the Forestry Commission is consistent with this standard and we expect private woodland owners that receive grant aid from the Forestry Commission to also meet the standard. The Government have encouraged the development of the voluntary UK Woodland Assurance Standard that provides an independent verification of compliance with good practice and measures to ensure the continuing good health of woodland. We shall continue to ensure compliance with the UK Forest Standard in those woods managed by the Forestry Commission and encourage it in the private sector.

We will also continue to improve, through research, our knowledge of factors affecting tree health and we shall maintain a vigilant guard against the establishment of non-native pests and diseases. For example, there is a determined effort, led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Forestry Commission, to contain and eradicate the diseases of trees and shrubs caused by the pathogens Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total *(a)* area and *(b)* production in cubic metres of (i) broadleaf and (ii) coniferous woodland in England has been in each year since 1980, broken down by region. [4446]

Jim Knight: A national woodland survey is carried out by the Forestry Commission at intervals of between 15 and 20 years. Comparative areas of woodland[1] in 1980 and 1998 were published in the latest National Inventory of Woodland and Trees, Regional Inventory reports. The figures are given in the table as follows.

	1980[2] *thousand hectares*		*1998*[3] *thousand hectares*	
Region	*Broadleaves*	*Conifers*	*Broadleaves*	*Conifers*
North-East	16.2	73.3	24.5	69.2
North-West	33.0	39.4	46.7	39.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	39.0	37.4	46.1	35.4
East Midlands	37.8	21.6	52.9	17.9
West Midlands	44.1	28.3	63.1	25.7
East of England	59.4	40.7	90.2	37.5
London	5.4	0.3	5.5	0.2
South East	138.2	59.1	173.6	52.4
South West	95.7	63.8	137.4	60.8
Total England	468.8	363.9	640.0	338.9

[1] Excluding open space, coppice and felled areas awaiting replanting.
[2] 1980 Census of Woodland
[3] National Inventory of Woodland and Trees—Regional Inventory Reports. Reference dates varied by region 1995 to 1999.
Notes:
1. Differences in sampling methodology between 1980 and 1998 may account for some of the differences.
2. In the 1980 Census the area assigned to broadleaves and conifers included any associated open space such as roads and rides. In the 1998 Inventory open spaces are separately identified and to obtain meaningful comparison between the two datasets the 1980 Census data has been reduced by the percentage of open space identified in the 1998 Inventory (Nationally 6.5 per cent.).

Timber production is not recorded by region and the estimate for total England production is given in the table as follows.

	Removals in million cubic metres overbark standing[1]	
	Hardwoods (from broadleafed trees)	*Softwood (from conifer trees)*
1980	1.2	1.3
1981	1.2	1.3
1982	1.0	1.4
1983	0.8	1.4
1984	0.8	1.5
1985	0.9	1.5
1986	0.9	1.7
1987	0.8	1.9
1988	1.1	2.3
1989	1.2	2.5
1990	1.1	2.5
1991	1.1	2.5
1992	0.8	2.6
1993	0.7	2.3
1994	0.8	2.6
1995	0.9	2.5
1996	0.8	2.4
1997	0.8	2.2
1998	0.7	2.1
1999	0.7	2.2
2000	0.6	2.1
2001	0.6	2.0
2002	0.6	1.8
2003	0.5	2.1
2004[2]	0.5	2.4

[1] Based on figures published in Forestry Facts and Figures for 1980–94, adjusted to consistent definition. Later figures for private sector removals estimated from a GB survey for 2000–04 and interpolated.
[2] Figures for 2004 are currently provisional.

Waste Education

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to allocate a proportion of landfill tax revenue to waste education based work in schools. [4426]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent North (Joan Walley) on 2 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 896W.

Water/Sewerage Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average monthly cost to consumers is of *(a)* water services and *(b)* sewerage services in each water supply area in 2004–05 (i) in total and (ii) broken down by those who were (A) metered and (B) unmetered. [4455]

Mr. Morley: The average monthly cost to households of water and sewerage services is set out in the following tables, broken down by company area and by measured and unmeasured supply.

2004–05

Water and sewerage companies	*Unmeasured water*	*Measured water*	*Total water*	*Unmeasured sewerage*	*Measured sewerage*	*Total sewerage*
Anglian	11.65	8.42	9.91	16.38	11.65	13.84
Dwr Cymru	11.09	6.87	10.28	15.11	7.86	13.61
North West	11.35	9.88	11.09	11.84	10.42	11.6
Northumbrian (incl. Essex and Suffolk)	9.74	8.01	9.38	11.1	9.41	10.92
Northumbrian	8.62	7.02	8.44	0	0	0
Essex and Suffolk	12.02	8.49	10.79	0	0	0
Severn Trent	10.1	8.35	9.68	8.94	8.26	8.79
SouthWest	12.5]	8.17	10.47	23.8	14.13	19.13
Southern	7.82	7.31	7.68	14.62	11.69	13.85
Thames	9.57	8.35	9.32	8.06	7.93	8.04
Wessex	11.4	8.53	10.46	13.44	10.04	12.5
Yorkshire (incl. York)	10.16	8.58	9.73	11.12	9.05	10.57

Water only companies	*Unmeasured water*	*Measured water*	*Total water*
Bournemouth and W. Hampshire	9.42	8	8.9
Bristol	9.37	8.06	9.07
Cambridge	8.39	8.83	7.55
Dee Valley	10.02	8.58	8.86
Folkestone and Dover	13.44	9.02	11.64
Mid Kent	11.57	9.15	10.77
Portsmouth	6.39	8.44	6.39
South East	11.29	9.21	10.69
South Staffs	7.46	7.38	7.45
Sutton and East Surrey	10.77	8.73	10.38
Tendring Hundred	10.81	11.06	13.28
Three Valleys	10.47	8.29	9.96

Water and sewerage companies	*Total unmeasured*	*Total measured*	*Total all households*
Anglian	28.02	20.07	23.75
Dwr Cymru	26.21	14.73	23.89
North West	23.19	20.3	22.69
Northumbrian (incl. Essex and Suffolk)	20.84	17.42	20.3
Northumbrian	0	0	0
Essex and Suffolk	0	0	0
Severn Trent	19.04	16.62	18.46
SouthWest	36.3	22.3	29.6
Southern	22.44	19	21.52
Thames	17.63	16.28	17.36
Wessex	24.84	18.57	22.97
Yorkshire (incl. York)	21.28	17.63	20.3

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the volume of sewage discharges from each sewage treatment works in South West London was in each of the last 10 years. [3164]

Mr. Morley: Information for most of the requested years is either incomplete, or not readily available without disproportionate effort in the available time. Readily available information is presented in the following table, where sewage works in South West London are taken to be those listed. Information for 2002 is not included as it is incomplete.

Treated sewage effluent from South West London sewage treatment works for years indicated in millions m³

Sewage works	*2001*	*2003*	*2004*[1]
Mogden	220	225	197
Esher	15.8	13.5	13.4
Hogsmill A	33.5	26.9	27.6
Hogsmill B	6.9	7	6.4
Total[2]	276	272	244

[1] Includes estimated data.

[2] Rounded.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department has given to water companies and sewage service providers to ensure that their sewage treatment works meet the criteria of the EU 1991 Urban Waste and Water Treatment Directive. [3165]

Mr. Morley: In England the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive is transposed by the Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994.

Guidance to the regulations, titled "Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994, Working Document for Dischargers and Regulators, A Guidance Note" was issued to sewerage undertakers and the Environment Agency in 1997.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what penalties there are for *(a)* water companies and *(b)* sewage service providers who fail to meet the EU 1991 Urban Waste and Water Treatment Directive. [3166]

Mr. Morley: Regulation 6(2) of the Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994, places a duty on the Environment Agency to ensure, through its discharge consenting powers under schedule 10 of the Water Resources Act 1991, as amended by the Environment Act 1995, that treatment standards set in the regulations are met. Where the Environment Agency considers sewerage undertakers are in breach of their consents it can undertake legal proceedings. Courts finding in favour of the Environment Agency can then levy fines.

Sewerage undertakers also have a duty under section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide sewage collecting systems, which is supplemented by Regulation 4 of the above-mentioned regulations. The Water Act 2003 also gives Ofwat, the Secretary of State and the National Assembly for Wales powers to impose financial penalties in certain circumstances. The approach is included in the 'Statement of policy with respect to financial penalties' which is on Ofwat's website, www.ofwat.gov.uk

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of sewage service providers who are failing to meet the EU 1991 Urban Waste and Water Treatment Directive in *(a)* London and *(b)* England; and if she will make a statement. [3167]

Mr. Morley: It is the role of the Environment Agency to monitor and enforce the requirements of environmental legislation.

Each year the Environment Agency advises Ofwat of water companies' compliance with Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive requirements contained in discharge consents. Ofwat publishes summary information in its "Levels of Service for the water industry in England and Wales" annual reports available on its website.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures she is taking to ensure that there are adequate numbers of disposal points at sewage treatment works for delivered waste from domestic cess pools. [3737]

Mr. Morley: It is the responsibility of the users of cess pools and septic tanks to arrange the lawful disposal of waste from them. Services for the collection, transport and treatment of such waste are open to competition, and are offered by sewerage companies and by other firms. Neither Ministers nor Ofwat have intervened to require companies to provide such services.

TREASURY

Bankruptcy and Repossession

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals have entered into bankruptcy and *(b)* properties have been repossessed in each quarter since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [4532]

John Healey: The requested data is in the following tables. Data on individual bankruptcies is published by the Department for Trade and Industry, while data on repossessions is published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Repossession figures are only available on a biannual rather than on a quarterly basis. Property repossessions are close to record lows as interest rates remain around their lowest levels for almost half a century. The Treasury has worked closely with the Department for Trade and Industry and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the recent consumer credit bill, which sets out policy on tackling over-indebtedness, financial exclusion, unfair lending practices and loan sharks; and on the quality and quantity of information available to consumers looking for credit.

Bankruptcy orders

	Number
1990 Q1	2,514
1990 Q2	2,804
1990 Q3	3,018
1990 Q4	3,722
1991 Q1	4,835
1991 Q2	5,337
1991 Q3	5,523
1991 Q4	6,937
1992 Q1	8,389
1992 Q2	7,791
1992 Q3	7,506
1992 Q4	8,420
1993 Q1	9,435
1993 Q2	7,394
1993 Q3	7,172
1993 Q4	7,015
1994 Q1	7,415
1994 Q2	6,588
1994 Q3	6,140
1994 Q4	5,491
1995 Q1	5,609
1995 Q2	5,838
1995 Q3	5,279
1995 Q4	5,207
1996 Q1	5,862
1996 Q2	5,443
1996 Q3	5,446
1996 Q4	5,052
1997 Q1	5,117
1997 Q2	5,278
1997 Q3	4,958
1997 Q4	4,539
1998 Q1	4,938
1998 Q2	4,755
1998 Q3	5,113
1998 Q4	4,841
1999 Q1	5,799
1999 Q2	5,527
1999 Q3	5,365
1999 Q4	4,920
2000 Q1	5,667
2000 Q2	5,414
2000 Q3	5,451
2000 Q4	5,018
2001 Q1	6,078
2001 Q2	6,115
2001 Q3	5,817
2001 Q4	5,467
2002 Q1	6,027
2002 Q2	6,269
2002 Q3	6,249
2002 Q4	5,747
2003 Q1	6,912
2003 Q2	6,949
2003 Q3	7,221
2003 Q4	6,940
2004 Q1	8,524
2004 Q2	9,060
2004 Q3	9,315
2004 Q4	8,999
2005 Q1	10,188

Properties in possession at end period

	Number
1990 H2	36,210
1991 H1	53,460
1991 H2	67,370
1992 H1	68,490
1992 H2	64,970
1993 H1	54,330

Properties in possession at end period

	Number
1993 H2	39,910
1994 H1	33,240
1994 H2	29,360
1995 H1	29,760
1995 H2	27,220
1996 H1	23,970
1996 H2	16,190
1997 H1	14,100
1997 H2	13,910
1998 H1	15,200
1998 H2	13,930
1999 H1	13,100
1999 H2	10,760
2000 H1	9,150
2000 H2	7,930
2001 H1	7,270
2001 H2	5,590
2002 H1	4,130
2002 H2	2,820
2003 H1	2,490
2003 H2	2,010
2004 H1	1,880
2004 H2	2,370

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in his Department in 2004–05. [4547]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs' figure for value for money procurement savings for 2004–05 is due to be audited and submitted to the Office of Government Commerce at the end of July. During 2004–05, HMRC delivered a total net full time equivalent reduction of 1,045 posts.

The Treasury's target for efficiency savings over the Spending Review 2004 period includes the delivery of £1 million of efficiencies by 2007–08 through improvements to the Treasury's procurement strategy. The plans to achieve this target include securing economies of scale through sharing of services with HMRC and maximising income opportunities through sub-letting of the building. Quantified procurement savings are currently being identified.

During 2004–05 the Treasury has secured efficiencies in working practices and processes which have enabled it to make good early progress on its full time equivalent post reduction target. By April 2005 efficiencies had been secured leading to a reduction in 100 full time equivalent posts. Both the HMRC and Treasury reductions in posts are adjusted for the 150 tax policy posts that transferred from HMRC to the Treasury during 2004–05.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the revenue from council tax in England has been in each year since 1997–98. [4618]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Accrued council tax income (net collectable debit) in England in the years 1997–98 to 2004–05 are available in Local Government Financial Statistics England No 15

2004. Outturn figures for 2004–05 will be published in an Office of the Deputy Prime Minister statistical release on 23 June.

False National Insurance Records

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many false national insurance records have been found in each year since 2000. [4896]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 294W.

Hepatitis C (Burton)

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths were caused by hepatitis C infection in Burton constituency in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [4427]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Janet Dean, dated 16 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths were caused by hepatitis C infection in Burton Constituency in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. I am replying in his absence. (4427)

Information on cause of death is available from death certificates. This information relates to where hepatitis C was either the underlying cause of death (i.e. the disease or condition that initiates the train of morbid events leading directly to death) or was mentioned on the death certificate as contributing to this sequence of events leading to death.

Information is not recorded at death if the certifying doctor did not know about the existence of a hepatitis C infection (which may have been contracted many years earlier), or where hepatitis C infection was not considered to be one of the factors contributing to the death.

There were no deaths of usual residents of Burton constituency registered in 2003 or 2004 where hepatitis C was the underlying cause of death. There was one death registered in 2003 where hepatitis C was mentioned on the death certificate.[1]

[1] Deaths were selected from the original causes of death recorded in the register. The following International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes were used for selection:

ICD-10 B17.1—Acute hepatitis C

ICD-10B18.2—Chronic viral hepatitis C

House Prices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on house prices of the Government's shared equity proposals; and if he will make a statement. [4537]

John Healey: This is a targeted measure that is expected to help up to 110,000 homebuyers over the next five years. While this is a substantial boost for first time buyers it needs to be considered in the context of the measures the Government is taking to increase housing supply, with 200,000 new homes expected to be built in this year alone and similar levels of home building in future years, and which are on top of a housing stock of some 26 million homes. With supply increasing far faster than the provision of these shared equity schemes, and this being on top of a total housing stock that dwarfs the number of homes that will be bought through shared equity schemes, we believe the effect on house prices in general will not be significant.

What really matters for the majority of homebuyers in terms of house prices is low and stable interest rates which this Government's monetary policy framework—in particular the independence of the Monetary Policy Committee—is delivering, alongside increasing housing supply, helped by a series of supply side reforms, including on planning.

Income Tax

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people he estimates did not pay income tax in 2004–05. [2839]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of people who did not pay income tax in 2004–05 can be estimated from the difference between the current projections of the UK's population and the projections of the number of income taxpayers. Information on the estimated number of income taxpayers in 2004–05 is available in table 2.1 'Number of individual income taxpayers' on the HM Revenue and Customs internet website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1.pdf

Population projections are prepared by the Government Actuary's Department and the UK projected population estimates can be found on the following link http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/2003/uk/wuk03singyear.xls

Internet Use

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the Department's policy on the private use by staff of the internet and how it is monitored. [4528]

John Healey: Treasury staff are allowed to make reasonable private use of the internet for browsing and e-mail, but any deliberate access to, or sending of, inappropriate material is treated as a serious disciplinary offence.

Filtering software is used on the Department's firewalls to block access to most websites that contain inappropriate material, and to prevent similar material from entering the Treasury via e-mail. All internet activity, both for web browsing and e-mail is logged automatically on Treasury IT systems and can therefore be examined if any misuse is suspected.

Primary School Children (Tamworth)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many primary school age children there are expected to be in Tamworth in each of the next five academic years. [4940]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Brian Jenkins, dated 16 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of primary school age children there are predicted to be in Tamworth for the next five academic years. I am replying in his absence. (4940)

Official 2003-based Subnational Population Projections for England were published by the Office for National Statistics in November 2004. The attached table shows the projected mid-year population of 5 to 11-year-olds for Tamworth taken from these projections.

Tamworth projected population of primary[1] school age children

	Thousand
2005	6.9
2006	6.8
2007	6.7
2008	6.6
2009	6.4
2010	6.3

[1] Primary school age defined as 5 to 11-year-olds

Source:
ONS 2003-based Subnational population projections http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=997

Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what studies his Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed on the efficiency of private finance initiative; and if he will make a statement. [4530]

John Healey: HM Treasury assumed responsibility for PFI policy in April 2003. In July 2003 the Treasury published the document "PFI: Meeting the Investment Challenge" (available on the HM Treasury website). This distilled the findings of a number of studies into PFI that were either undertaken or reviewed by HM Treasury. References for these studies are included within the document. HM Treasury have a framework agreement in place with Partnerships UK under which it commissions work on a variety of PFI subjects on an ad hoc basis. The Treasury also takes account of the findings from NAO and PAC reports on PFI as they are published.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has an obligation properly to check full and accurate information submitted by a taxpayer on or before 30 September before calculating the taxpayer's liability. [3933]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of the person submitting the Self Assessment Return to ensure that it is, to the best of their knowledge, correct and complete. Obvious errors and mistakes are corrected. However there is no obligation on HM Revenue and Customs to check the information contained in any Self Assessment return before calculating the liability.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs, in calculating a taxpayer's liability when it receives a tax return by 30 September, is only able to check that taxpayer's return for obvious mistakes by opening an enquiry under the Taxes Acts. [3934]

Dawn Primarolo: The legislation governing the operation of self-assessment allows HM Revenue and Customs to correct any obvious errors or mistakes on a self-assessment tax return for a period of up to nine months after the date of receipt without the need to open an enquiry.

Tax Benefit Manual

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make available the latest Tax Benefit Manual and a copy of the summary minutes from recent Treasury Management Board meetings. [4536]

John Healey: The 2004–05 edition of the Tax Benefit Reference Manual is available in the House of Commons Library.

The minutes of Treasury Board meetings are not routinely disclosed as to do so would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Tax Credit (Overpayments)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-pensioner families in *(a)* the London borough of Haringey and *(b)* Hornsey and Wood Green constituency were recipients of tax credits in each of the last three years; how many have been identified as having received overpayments; and if he will make a statement. [4800]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my reply on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 468W to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Mrs. Jones).

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of tax credits are being pursued for repayments as a result of overpayment of tax credits in *(a)* Hertsmere and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [4848]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC has published statistics that show estimates of the number of 2003–04 awards to families that were overpaid in each region, local authority and constituency at 5 April 2004, after finalisation. The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. The publication can be found on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-pyts_geog0304.pdf

Details of how overpayments are recovered are provided in the Department's Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit."

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase the amount of the pensioners' fuel allowance in line with changes in oil prices. [4574]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

We have no such plans. The payment has risen from £20 in winter 1997–98 to £200 from winter 2000–01. It is a significant contribution towards fuel costs but is not intended to cover the full cost of fuel bills.

PRIME MINISTER

Defence Systems and Equipment

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister if he will be attending the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition in September. [3944]

The Prime Minister: No.

Nuclear Inventories (Missing Material)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the amounts of material missing from nuclear inventories which could be used in construction of a weapon in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* other NATO member states, *(c)* other countries with nuclear weapons and *(d)* other states with nuclear power; and if he will make a statement. [3110]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), which regulates the security of nuclear material held by the UK civil nuclear industry, has recorded no theft of nuclear material from the industry. MOD is responsible for the security of the UK's inventory of non-civil nuclear material and there is no recorded theft of such material. Internationally, the security measures to prevent, and provide early warning of, the possible theft of nuclear material (e.g. by 'non-state actors') are a matter for the individual states concerned.

In addition, nuclear safeguards provide assurance that states (or nuclear facility operators on their behalf) do not divert nuclear material from declared peaceful uses. Euratom treaty safeguards are applied to all civil nuclear material in the UK and the European Commission's most recent report on its application of these safeguards concluded there were no indications that civil nuclear material in the EU (including UK and EU members of NATO) had been diverted from its declared uses http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/nuclear/legislation/doc/2005_01_07_COM_2004_861_en.pdf.

So far as the application of international safeguards to inventories of nuclear material outside the UK are concerned, in addition to the Euratom treaty safeguards conclusions mentioned above, the definitive source is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose safeguards conclusions are published at the IAEA website http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/SV/Safeguards/es2003.html. However, such IAEA safeguards do not apply to all nuclear material in nuclear-weapon states nor to all material in states which are not party to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (the NPT).

Prime Minister

Mr. Allen: To ask the Prime Minister what the procedure is for the selection of a new Prime Minister in the event of an incumbent retiring before a General Election; and if he will review the procedure. [3343]

The Prime Minister: Her Majesty the Queen appoints the Prime Minister, but the procedure for selecting a new Party Leader would be a matter for the political party concerned.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

School Meals

10. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to assist in improving school meals by providing additional training for catering staff. [4751]

Jacqui Smith: Together with the Food Standards Agency and People 1st, we have developed a Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) at Level 1 in Healthier Catering, which will give school cooks and caterers the knowledge and skills to deliver a healthier meals service. We are also working with our external partners to review and build on other qualifications that are currently available to ensure we have a ladder of qualifications to meet the skills needs of all catering staff.

15. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will receive a deputation of school children from Millbrook Junior School in Kettering to discuss provision of healthier food in schools. [4758]

Maria Eagle: I would be happy to meet a deputation of children from Millbrook Junior School.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions she has had on improving the skills of those who work in school kitchens; and whether she intends to issue guidance to local authorities on this matter. [4771]

Jacqui Smith: My officials have had discussions with a wide range of bodies including the People 1st (the Sector Skills Council for the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries), the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Teacher Training Agency, the Learning and Skills Council and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. We have no current plans to issue guidance to local authorities but, as my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for children and families in her response to an adjournment debate on 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 535, said, we strongly encourage schools and LEAs to consider releasing support staff, as many already do, to attend training and development, especially where it is job related.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 477W, on school meals, whether she plans to develop a level 2 qualification. [5016]

Jacqui Smith: There are currently a range of catering qualifications available at levels 2 and 3. We are currently working with People 1st, the Food Standards Agency, the Teacher Training Agency, the LSC and the QCA to review and build on the qualifications that are available to ensure we have a ladder of qualifications, which includes information on nutritional standards where appropriate, and will meet the skills needs of all catering staff.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 477W, on school meals, (1) what

procedures are in place to monitor whether she needs to use her statutory powers to issue a directive to a school that is failing to meet current nutritional standards; [5017]

(2) how many directions she has issued to schools that have failed to meet the current nutritional standard, in each year since the current nutritional standards came into force. [5019]

Jacqui Smith: Local authorities or, where the budget for school lunches is delegated to them, school governing bodies have a duty to ensure that school lunch nutritional standards are being met. We are developing monitoring arrangements in support of our drive to improve school meals.

Support for healthy eating will be one aspect of children's services joint area reviews at local authority level.

Ofsted will, from September, inspect and report on schools' contribution to the 'being healthy' aspect of pupil well-being. School meals will be considered as part of this.

A separate sample survey linked to the proposed new standards is planned for the autumn.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 478W, on school meals, what the annual budget is of *(a)* the School Food Trust and *(b)* the School Meals Review Panel: [5020]

Jacqui Smith: As I have previously announced, the School Food Trust will receive an annual budget of £5 million over the next three years. The School Meals Review Panel is an advisory group and does not have a fixed budget, although members of the panel are reimbursed for their expenditure on travel and subsistence when attending meetings.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 477W, on school meals, when the school meals review panel will begin the examination of other food and drink sold on school premises. [5022]

Jacqui Smith: The top priority for the school meals review panel is to consider how to tighten nutritional standards that apply to school lunches as, for many children, this is often the main meal of the day.

However, the panel will also consider whether and how these standards might be applied to other aspects of food and drink in schools.

Private Schools (Charitable Status)

11. **Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will take steps to remove the charitable status of private schools. [4752]

Jacqui Smith: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is responsible for the law on charitable status. Under the Charities Bill an organisation qualifies for charitable status only if it has a charitable purpose—such as advancement of education—and is for the public benefit. The Charity Commission, the independent regulator, will review the public benefit credentials of fee-charging charities, including independent schools. Any that are not for the public benefit face loss of charitable status.

Sure Start

12. **Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are participating in the Sure Start programme. [4755]

Beverley Hughes: During March 2005, nationally across all Sure Start local programmes, 79,356 children were seen. Our expectations have been that programmes will see between a quarter and a third of the children in their area per month so these figures are broadly in line with expectations. Over the course of a year we expect that all families with young children will have some contact with their local Sure Start programme.

Reading (Teaching Methods)

13. **John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on her plans to review the methods of teaching reading. [4756]

Jacqui Smith: Primary schools, supported by the National Literacy Strategy, have the highest standards of literacy ever. The Strategy has evolved to take account of the latest developments, and the time is right to renew the literacy framework, to build on this success. To inform this work, I have appointed Jim Rose to review best practice in the teaching of early reading, including synthetic phonics, and the range of provision to support children with significant literacy difficulties.

Prisons (Literacy)

14. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on literacy in prisons. [4757]

Phil Hope: The Government gives a high priority to improving offenders' literacy skills. During 2004–5, offenders in custody achieved almost 30,000 nationally accredited literacy qualifications—a major contribution to the Government's targets for improving basic skills.

School Funding (Bournemouth)

16. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on school funding in Bournemouth. [4759]

Jacqui Smith: On the latest available figures, funding for pupils aged 3–19 in Bournemouth increased by £750 per pupil in real terms between 1997–98 and 2005–06.

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which her Department is responsible available on-line. [3714]

Jacqui Smith: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have

been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

Attainment Seminar

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list those invited to attend the seminar on international studies of attainment on 4 July. [779]

Bill Rammell: The following individuals, representing a range of interests and expertise in international comparisons studies of attainment have been invited, together with appropriate DFES officials, to attend a seminar on this subject scheduled for 4 July 2005:

Mr. John Bangs, National Union of Teachers

Dr. Jenny Bradshaw, National Foundation for Educational Research

Professor Margaret Brown, King's College London

Mr. Richard Browne, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Dr. Siobhan Carey, Department for International Development

Dr. Jude Cosgrove, St. Patrick's College, Drumconora

Mr. Keith Davies, Welsh Assembly Government

Mr. Steve Doo, Professional Association of Teachers

Mr. John Dunford, Secondary Heads Association

Dr. Tony Gardiner, University of Birmingham

Mr. Chris Girdler, National Association of Headteachers

Professor Harvey Goldstein, Institute of Education, University of London

Professor Stephen Gorard, University of York

Professor John Gray, University of Cambridge

Dr. Rachael Harker, Office for National Statistics

Professor Wynne Harlen, University of Bristol

Dr. Seamus Hegarty, Director of the National Foundation for Educational Research and General Secretary of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement

Professor David Hopkins, Institute of Education, University of London

Ms Sue Horner, Qualifications and Curriculum Association

Mr. Martin Johnson, Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Dr. Ivor Johnston, Department of Education, Northern Ireland

Dr. Jo Macdonald, Scottish Executive

Professor John Micklewright, University of Southampton

Professor Peter Mortimore, ex-Institute of Education, University of London

Mr. Darren Northcott, National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers

Dr. Tim Gates, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Professor Sig Prais, National Institute for Economic and Social Research

Professor David Reynolds, University of Exeter

Ms Melissa Rice, Statistics Commission

Dr. Graham Ruddock, National Foundation for Educational Research

Professor Pam Sammons, University of Nottingham

Dr. Ian Schagen, National Foundation for Educational Research

Dr. Andreas Schleicher, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Dr. Sylke Schnepf, University of Southampton

Dr. Gerry Shiel, St. Patrick's College, Drumconora

Dr. Patten Smith, British Market Research Bureau

Professor Alan Smithers, University of Buckingham

Dr. Patrick Sturgis, University of Surrey

Dr. Graham Thorpe, University of Glasgow

Dr. Chris Whetton, National Foundation for Educational Research

Dr. Julia Whitburn, National Institute for Economic and Social Research

Bournemouth and Poole FE College

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons the budget of Bournemouth and Poole College of Further Education for the academic year 2005/06 is being reduced. [741]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 May 2005]:* Funding for further education is increasing and will rise by over £1 billion in 2005/06 compared to 2002/03—almost a 20 per cent. real terms increase over three years. Funding increases for individual colleges will depend on a number of factors including the extent to which college activities align with our key priorities. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have not yet confirmed Bournemouth and Poole College's allocation for 2005/06. As the allocation of funding to colleges relates to the LSC's operational responsibilities. I have asked the LSC's Chief Executive, Mark Haysom, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom to Annette Brooke, dated 9 June 2005:

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills regarding FE funding for Bournemouth and Poole College. Following discussions with colleagues who work with the College, I hope the following will answer your concerns.

Bournemouth and Poole College's Further Education allocation for 2004/05 was £22,684,000. The budget for this year, (2005/06) has been confirmed at £23,134,337—an actual increase on the previous year. Written confirmation of this amount was given to the college on 27 May.

The LSC is aware that some FE institutions are warning of serious cuts in courses for adults, particularly part-time courses, to make ends meet while others talk of the need for staff redundancies. We have always been clear that this funding round was going to be tough and that the whole sector is going to have to make difficult choices.

None of this is due to the LSC cutting FE budgets. In fact we have increased FE funding nationally from £3.5 billion to £4.5 billion from 2001/02 to 2005/06, an increase of 29 per cent. This year we will be increasing national funding by a further £170 million. This increase is reflected across the country with Bournemouth and Poole College seeing an increase of £450,337.

The fact that budgets have increased does not disguise the immense challenges ahead. Public funds are always finite and there will never be enough money to do all that the LSC or the FE colleges would like to do. There are a number of key factors to explain why colleges like Bournemouth and Poole are feeling the funding squeeze. The first is their success in driving up participation and achievement. For example, we now have the highest ever level of 16–18 year olds in education and training. These numbers have to be funded and this has put a strain on budgets, leaving less for other areas and ensuring that money will be tight in the next academic year and beyond.

Funding is also being squeezed because we are concentrating funding on key priorities we have agreed with the Government in the areas of education and training for 16–18 year olds, young people taking Apprenticeships, anyone needing to improve their literacy and numeracy and anyone without a full level 2 qualification. These priorities are vital to delivering the Government's Skills Strategy.

Copies of "The Skills We Need": Our Annual Statement of Priorities, which sets out the key actions for this coming year, were distributed during December 2004 and this was followed by a paper outlining local priorities, several group presentations and one to one meetings with the College. The last of these was held on May 12 to finalise allocations and gave them a week to respond with views.

We recognise this situation will not be easy and we understand that some colleges find it difficult to reduce courses outside our priorities. That is why we believe they can develop additional funding by increasing the fees for those individuals with higher-level qualifications and from employers.

The Skills Strategy clearly emphasised the need for employers and individuals to contribute more in relation to the significant benefits they receive from education and training. That is why following consultation last year, the LSC increased the levels colleges are assumed to charge for courses from 25 per cent. to 27.5 per cent. Raising fees is designed to ensure public funds are concentrated on those people with low or no skills to bring about a better balance between public and private investment in education and training.

In the summer of 2004, I discussed with college principals from all parts of the country the major and urgent issues facing further education. The extensive dialogue was an essential part of the LSC's commitment to work in partnership with FE in a spirit of trust, openness and transparency.

Following this we produced an agenda for change, identifying issues crucial to the transformation of FE to meet the needs of learners and employers. For our part, the LSC made very clear the scale of the challenges that we face together and the transformation agenda that we must pursue in FE to meet those challenges. I will be speaking further about our progress during a second series of regional road shows planned for this summer.

Trish Taylor, Executive Director for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole plans to keep you updated throughout this year with progress against our priorities for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. In the meantime, I hope this letter answers your questions regarding funding for Bournemouth and Poole College.

Bullying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 472W, on bullying, what the *(a)* membership, *(b)* funding for 2005–06, *(c)* terms of reference and *(d)* date of the last meeting of the Change for Children Programme Board are; what work it has commissioned; and how often it has met since it was established. [5052]

Beverley Hughes: The Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme board is an official-level cross-Government programme board chaired by DfES to oversee delivery of the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme. It reports to the new Cabinet Sub-Committee DA(CP). The programme board has met eight times since it was established and the last meeting was on 24 May 2005. Members are senior officials from key Government Departments and inspectorates and include the Children's Commissioner for England as an independent observer. Meetings are funded from administrative costs from the relevant Government Departments.

Child Care

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to encourage fathers to become more involved in caring for children. [4721]

Beverley Hughes: Research has shown that fathers play a vital part in children's lives and that they can make a real difference in children's educational, emotional and social development, for both girls and boys. We have introduced a range of measures aimed at supporting fathers in their important role. For example, we have developed materials for schools on working with fathers, including a booklet on "Engaging Fathers" and an "Involving Parents Raising Achievement" toolkit. We have supported, through the Parenting Fund and the Strengthening Families Grant, projects run by organisations in the Voluntary and Community Sector which focus on fathers. We are currently considering what further measures we might put in place to meet the specific needs of fathers, and particularly to encourage them to support their children's development and learning, as we develop our work to support parents more generally.

Education and Skills Funding

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what reviews her Department has undertaken in the last five years of the way funding for education and skills has been used. [3855]

Maria Eagle: The following reviews of education and skills have been undertaken in the last five years:

Review/consultation—Date of completion	*Aim*
Review of English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Provision—February 2005. *Jointly undertaken with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).*	A review of ESOL to determine current practices and issues and to make recommendations on how the planning and funding of ESOL may be improved.
Consultation on new school funding arrangements—May 2005.	To explore the mechanisms for funding schools covering the introduction of new school funding arrangements from April 2006.
Review of LEA Social Deprivation Funding for Schools—Publication due late 2005.	To examine ways in which Local Education Authorities (LEAs) fund schools for the higher costs incurred from socially deprived pupils, and recommend improvements.
Student Finance Review—January 2003	To explore options for student finance in higher education (HE).
Fundamental Review of HE—January 2003	To undertake a wide ranging and fundamental review of the mission for HE including widening participation, research, teaching and management and leadership.
Review of Funding for Adult Learning—July 2003	To explore incentives and ways of encouraging responsiveness to employer needs and reforming funding arrangements to enable the RDA role.

Review/consultation—Date of completion	*Aim*
Success for All—October 2002	Consultation on the Department's proposed investment and reform strategy for the learning and skills sector.
Review of Financial Support for Adult Learning—2000	To consider how learning accounts could be further developed and loans for adult learners made more widely available.
Learning to Succeed: Post-16 Funding: Second Technical Paper—2000	Consultation on new funding arrangements for post-16 education and skills.

EU Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons no specific provision was made in the Higher Education Act 2004 for EU students in respect of *(a)* bursaries and *(b)* recovery of fee loans. [3055]

Bill Rammell: The content of the Higher Education Act 2004 was decided by Parliament after full debate. Parliament did not decide to include specific provisions about bursaries or loan repayments for any students, whether or not from the European Union.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her estimate is of the total loan subsidy consequent on the non-commercial rate of interest charged by the Student Loan Company for EU students studying in England in each year between 2006 and 2010. [3057]

Bill Rammell: Assuming that 91 per cent. of EU students are charged the full £3,000 fee and 9 per cent. charged £2,000, and assuming that 80 per cent. of them take out a fee loan and that their repayment behaviour is similar to English and Welsh students, costs are estimated to be around £40 million[1] per year (steady state at academic year 2006/07 terms). These costs are made up of the interest rate subsidy of loans together with the costs that are never repaid for example loans that are written off after 25 years or death.

The costs of EU students studying in the UK are offset by the longer term economic benefits which they bring. It is estimated that each EU student provides a net benefit of over £6,000 per year in living expenses to the UK[2]. Multiplying this estimate for individual contributions to the UK economy by the estimated number of eligible EU students suggests that these students alone contribute £270 million per year. Of the known first destinations of EU undergraduates, 25 per cent. remain in the UK to work after graduation and on average they pay £5,000 in income tax over 1.5 years[2]. In addition there are substantial unquantifiable benefits to the UK. In particular, the UK benefits from an addition to its stock of employed manpower of a significant number of highly skilled young people. Other benefits arise from the contribution of these EU students and researchers within UK HEIs, and from having a significant proportion of the young future elite of Europe living, studying and working in this country for an important and formative period in their lives.

[1] Rounded to the nearest £10 million.

[2] Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) report "Projecting demand for UK HE from the Accession Countries" published March 2004.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received concerning costs incurred by higher education institutions in obtaining legal advice regarding their liabilities to make bursary or financial support available to EU students from 2006. [4256]

Bill Rammell: None.

Faith Awareness Training

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3807]

Maria Eagle: From April 2004 to March 2005, 45 staff received faith awareness training, as part of a wider session on sexual orientation, religion and belief awareness.

The Department's intranet site provides comprehensive guidance on faith awareness for all staff, and is accessible at all times.

Freedom of Speech (SOAS)

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 335W, on freedom of speech, what measures she is taking to ensure that the governing body of the School of Oriental and African Studies is fulfilling its duties in this regard. [5008]

Bill Rammell: The duties on governing bodies of universities to ensure freedom of speech are statutory ones, capable of being enforced at law where a governing body has failed to carry out its responsibilities. There is no provision for the Government directly to intervene, but I am keeping in touch with developments in the sector. In particular, I welcome the intention of the sector, working through its Equality Challenge Unit, to produce guidance for universities on tackling extremism and intolerance on campus.

GCSEs

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether parts of the course content for GCSE qualifications in *(a)* home economics and *(b)* design technology are replicated in the course content for the GCSE in food technology. [4844]

Bill Rammell: GCSEs exist in Home Economics (food and nutrition) and Design Technology (food technology). The focus of each specification is very different. Design and Technology (food technology) covers food materials and components; food product design; development and market influences; and food process and product manufacture.

Home Economics (food and nutrition) looks at nutrition in relation to the preparation and cooking of food; the relationship between nutrition and good health; and the effect of the marketing and advertising of food products on consumer choice.

Graduate Earnings

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what research she has collated on the lifetime levels of earnings of *(a)* graduates and *(b)* non-graduates; [4209]

(2) if she will make a statement on the recent research findings at Swansea University that graduates can expect to earn £140,000 more over their lifetimes compared with non-graduates. [4208]

Bill Rammell: Data on lifetime earnings are rare, but we do impute such information from cross-section data sets. The following table shows gross weekly average earnings for graduates and non-graduates, by age bands. It demonstrates that the premium rises with age, as a degree opens doors to promotion and progression over the working life which are closed to non-graduates.

	First/ foundation degree (£)	*Level 3 and below (£)*	*Percentage difference*
20–24	356	283	26
25–29	472	354	34
30–34	612	422	45
35–39	728	445	64
40–44	780	434	80
45–49	719	433	66
50–54	768	406	89
55–59	726	385	89
Total working age	610	388	57

Source:
Winter 2004 LFS. Gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in England.

We prefer to present this type of data in another format—most importantly using an accounting technique to express the benefit to a degree at today's valuation, and stripping out any other effects not related to the qualification itself.

In doing so, the average lifetime financial benefit to a degree, compared to holders of A-levels as their highest qualification, is £120,000 in present value terms—as outlined in a previous written answer to the House (PQ 140797, 8 December 2003).

This is entirely consistent with the University of Wales' research. It represents a strong financial benefit to university education, and provides a clear message that employers need graduates and the extra productivity and innovation that they bring to the economy.

Higher Education

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made towards achieving the target of 50 per cent. of all 18 to 30-year-olds going on to higher education by 2010. [3980]

Bill Rammell: The Department measures progress on its target of increasing participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30 by 2010 through the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). The HEIPR has risen from 41 per cent. in 1999–2000 to 43 per cent.(provisionally) in 2003–04.

Further information on the HEIPR is available in DfES Statistical First Release 14/2005 "Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/ 2000–2003/04 (Provisional)" published on 14 April 2005 and available from the House of Commons Library.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of individuals who entered higher education came from each social class in each of the past 10 years for which figures are available. [3221]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information showing the proportion of young (under 21) people from each social class who enter higher education is shown in the table. The Government are committed to widening participation in higher education (HE). The Aimhigher Programme, alongside, from 2006, grants and higher education institution bursaries for students from poorer backgrounds, will enable a wider range of people to be able and willing to enter HE.

Age Participation Index (API)[1] *by social class*

Percentage

	Social class							
Year of entry	*I*	*II*	*IIIn*	*IIIm*	*IV*	*V*	*I-IIIn*	*IIIm-V*
1991	55	36	22	11	12	6	35	11
1992	71	39	27	15	14	9	40	14
1992	73	42	29	17	16	11	43	16
1994	78	45	31	18	17	11	46	17
1995	80	46	31	18	17	12	47	17
1996	82	47	32	18	17	13	48	18
1997	79	48	31	19	18	14	48	18
1998	72	45	29	18	17	13	45	17
1999	73	45	30	18	17	13	45	17
2000	76	48	33	19	19	14	48	18
2001	79	50	33	21	18	15	50	19

[1] The Age Participation index (API) is defined as the number of home domiciled young (aged less than 21) initial entrants to full-time and sandwich undergraduate courses expressed as a proportion of the averaged 18 to 19-year-old GB population. The Age Participation Index has been superseded by the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) which measures the participation of 18 to 30-year-olds, and in 2002 the social class categories were replaced by a new socio-economic group (SEG) classification. The Department has commissioned a report to look at disaggregating the HEIPR by SEG Class, or recommend other alternatives if this is not possible.

Note:
The percentages in the table represent the proportions of students from each given social class who enter HE. (The individual percentages in each column will not therefore sum to 100 per cent.)
I—Professional
II—Intermediate
IIIn—Skilled (non-manual)
IIIm—Skilled (manual)
IV—Partially skilled
V—Unskilled.

Literacy

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of literacy standards in primary schools. [4747]

Jacqui Smith: Literacy standards in primary schools are the highest that they have ever been. Last year 78 per cent. of 11-year-olds reached the expected level for their

age in English Key Stage 2 tests. This represents an increase of 15 percentage points since 1997. In the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) published in 2003, England's 10-year-olds achieved the third highest scores in reading of the 35 countries which took part.

Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the planned *(a)* staff numbers, *(b)* resource budget and *(c)* administration costs of the (i) Learning and Skills Council and (ii) Office of Fair Access are for each year between 2005 and 2010. [3981]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council's estimated staffing requirement for 2005–06 is 4,230. Staffing numbers have not yet been agreed for the following years, but the LSC will meet its efficiency targets.

The current budgets allocated to the LSC are provided in the following table. The LSC has in place measures to achieve a planned reduction in administration costs to meet their contribution to the 15 per cent. efficiency savings required across government.

Learning and Skills Council budgets 2005–08

£000

	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08
Resource budget (excluding administration)	9,766,668	9,339,696	9,821,463
Administration	250,609	248,179	235,444
Total	10,017,277	9,587,875	10,056,907

Notes:

1. The 2005–06 LSC budget was updated in a letter to the LSC on 13 April 2005.
2. Budgets for 2006–07 and 2007–08 were set out in the Grant Letter from the Secretary of State to the LSC on 15 November 2004.
3. The LSC's administration costs include funding for Depreciation and Cost of Capital that in previous years were held centrally in DfES.

Budgets for 2008–09 and 2009–10 will be set as part of the next spending review.

The Office of Fair Access has a budget of up to £500,000 for 2005–06 from which it meets its administration costs and performs its statutory functions. Plans for future years will be set in consultation with the Director of Fair Access.

Pupil Behaviour

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 476W, on pupil behaviour, when she expects to *(a)* collect and *(b)* publish the first figures on attendance at pupil referral units; [5050]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 475–76W, on pupil behaviour, when she intends *(a)* to ask and *(b)* to require local education authorities to publish figures on attendance at pupil referral units. [5055]

Jacqui Smith: We plan to collect and publish figures on attendance at pupil referral units (PRUs) on a regular basis. However, we need to undertake a one-off exercise this year to ensure that the data currently available at PRUs are recorded in a suitable format for publication. We intend to issue the request for the data to local authorities in November 2005, with a view to collecting it in February 2006, and publishing it in April 2006. In the coming months, we also plan to amend the Education (School Performance Information) Regulations 2001, to require local authorities to provide these attendance figures to my Department at regular intervals, for publication.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 475–76W, on pupil behaviour, what the process is for collection of information on attendance from local education authorities for *(a)* maintained schools, *(b)* independent schools and *(c)* pupil referral units. [5051]

Jacqui Smith: The Department collects data on pupil absences directly from schools through our contractor, Forvus.

(a) From this school year, maintained schools have been asked to submit data in January and April on overall pupil absences in the autumn and spring terms respectively. These new termly collections do not require schools to distinguish between authorised and unauthorised absences. Data on authorised and unauthorised absences for the period from the beginning of the school year to the May half-term are collected from maintained schools in June each year.

(b) Independent schools participate only in the annual data collection in June.

(c) At present, pupil referral units are not required to submit data for either the termly or annual collections. We are currently considering the best way to arrange for the collection of absence data from pupil referral units which we expect to publish in April 2006.

Pupil Funding

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school funding per pupil in England (i) was in 1997 and (ii) is in the current financial year. [5619]

Jacqui Smith: The average funding per primary pupil (aged 3–10) and per secondary pupil (aged 11–15) in England for 1997–98 and 2005–06 is:

	1997–98	2005–06
Pupils aged 3–10	2,390	3,600
Pupils aged 11–15	3,260	4,410

Notes:

These figures are in real terms and include funding via Education Formula Spending/Standard Spending Assessment and revenue grants allocated at an LEA level. The 2005–06 figures exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.

Price Base: Real terms at 2003–04 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 23 March 2005

Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education SSA/EFS settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.

Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3–10 and 11–15 and exclude EMAs and grants not allocated at LEA level.

The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations.

Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Status: 2005–06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.

Religious Education

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance is issued by her Department on the teaching of Christianity in schools. [4743]

Maria Eagle: We recently launched a new national framework for religious education to support the delivery of high quality religious education in schools. This reinforces the position of Christianity as the main religious tradition of this country. It also provides opportunities for pupils to study the principal religions in Great Britain, other religious traditions and secular philosophies in line with the Government's goals of inclusion, tolerance and diversity.

School Building

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Building Schools for the Future projects will include building for the special schools sector; whether each will provide *(a)* new buildings and *(b)* improvements to existing buildings; what the cost will be of each such project; and in which wave of Building Schools for the Future they will occur. [4864]

Jacqui Smith: Building Schools for the Future aims to ensure that all secondary-age pupils are educated in 21st-century facilities, whether in mainstream or special schools. We expect all local authorities that have special schools to include them in their plans. As for mainstream schools, depending on local circumstances, these plans can include new buildings and/or improvements to existing buildings. Costs of each project are only identified as they proceed through procurement and are not finalised until contract signature. We have indicated to local authorities broadly where in the 15-year programme their projects will come, but have not specified in which wave.

Building Schools for the Future is not the only programme which supports building improvements in special schools. Each special school receives its own allocation of Devolved Formula Capital and local authorities can use their formulaic capital allocations to address the needs of special schools, which should be included in their asset management plans. Special schools are also a priority project within the Targeted Capital Fund, and we are currently considering applications for funding in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the cost of providing accessible facilities for pupils with disabilities in mainstream schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [4866]

Jacqui Smith: All mainstream schools built under Building Schools for the Future or other programmes should provide accessible facilities for pupils with special education needs and disabilities. Guidance has been issued to help them do this in Building Bulletin 98.

Estimates and allocations for Building Schools for the Future reflect the requirements of Building Bulletin 98 as a whole; we have not estimated the cost of accessible provision separately.

We also support investment to improve the accessibility of school buildings through the School Access Initiative which has run since 1996. Funding for this, which is allocated to each local authority by formula, is £100 million in this and each of the next two financial years.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether special schools to be built under the Building Schools for the Future programme will include special schools for *(a)* primary level, *(b)* joint primary and secondary level, *(c)* secondary level, *(d)* secondary level with post-16 provision and *(e)* post-16 level. [4912]

Jacqui Smith: Special schools to be built under Building Schools for the Future include those for joint primary and secondary level, secondary level, and secondary level with post-16 provision. Special schools for primary level will be included in the new primary capital programme announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2005 budget. There are no special schools for just post-16 level. Capital investment in specialist colleges is directed through the Learning and Skills Council.

Schools (Weapons)

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions in the last 12 months a pupil at a state secondary school in England has been found to be in possession of a weapon on school premises. [4786]

Jacqui Smith: A Youth Justice Board survey in 2004 showed that 1 per cent. of age 11–16 pupils in England and Wales had at some time in the last year carried a knife in school for offensive reasons, and 2 per cent. for "defensive" reasons. We propose to give head teachers a power to search for knives, and will add to existing guidance on how police, schools and other local agencies can work together, to keep knives out of our schools.

Secondary Education (Newark)

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans she has for improvements to secondary education in Newark. [4754]

Jacqui Smith: Ministers have no specific plans for improvements to secondary education in Newark. The Department's strategy for children and learners sets out how we intend to achieve improvements over the next five years for children's services, and for education and lifelong learning.

Social Exclusion

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 482W, if she will make a statement on the progress towards reaching the public service agreement target to which she refers; and how this is measured. [5034]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has a PSA target to "Improve children's communication; social and emotional development so that by 2008 50 per cent. of children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage, and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 20 per cent. most disadvantaged areas and the rest of England".

The 50 per cent. level, set in July 2004 and covering the period April 2005 to March 2008, was based on the 2003 Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) results. The target level is provisional as the 2003 FSP data were "experimental statistics". The 2005 results, which will be published in a Statistical First Release in October, will inform the calculation of a challenging trajectory to enable the progress made by children to be measured. The 2005 survey will also collect for the first time information about children in the 20 per cent. most disadvantaged areas and this will be used to measure the rate of development achieved by children in these areas compared to the national picture. The figures from the 2004 survey indicate that 51 per cent. of children are working securely within the Early Learning Goals for communication, social and emotional development.

Special Educational Needs

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the Government's policy is on the teaching of children with special needs in mainstream schools. [4728]

Maria Eagle: The Government's overarching priority for children with SEN is that their needs should be met in an appropriate way, through an appropriate package of support. Children with less significant needs should in general be able to have their needs met in a mainstream environment, provided that appropriate support is in place. However, we recognise that mainstream schools are not suitable for some children with special educational needs. Both mainstream and special schools have a significant role to play.

There needs to be a range of high quality provision for pupils for whom mainstream education may not be right, or may not be what their parents want. There must be strong links between special schools, mainstream schools, special units and resourced provision. This type of partnership working is a key aspect of the Government's published strategy on SEN—"Removing Barriers to Achievement".

Special Needs Tribunals

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many special needs tribunals took place in the last year for which information is available, broken down by local education authority. [3668]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The followingtable shows the numbers of SEN appeals decided by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in the last full Tribunal year, September 2003 to August 2004.

The numbers of SEN appeals decided by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in the last full Tribunal year, September 2003 to August 2004, were as follows:

	Number
Barking and Dagenham	7
Barnet	16
Barnsley	7
Bath and NE Somerset	3
Bedfordshire	8
Bexley	3
Birmingham	51
Blackburn	4
Blackpool	1
Bolton	6
Bournemouth	1
Bracknell Forest	2
Bradford	8
Brent	11
Bridgend	1
Brighton and Hove	9
Bristol City	17
Bromley	48
Buckinghamshire	4
Bury	8
Caerphilly	3
Calderdale	12
Cambridgeshire	5
Camden	3
Cardiff	6
Carmarthenshire	2
Cheshire	10
Cornwall	17
Coventry	1
Croydon	17
Cumbria	6
Darlington	5
Derby City	4
Derbyshire	9
Devon	6
Doncaster	7
Dorset	3
Dudley	2
Durham	12
Ealing	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	5
East Sussex	40
Enfield	3
Essex	25
Flintshire	1
Gateshead	4
Gloucestershire	8
Greenwich	11
Gwynedd	1
Hackney	11
Halton	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	2
Hampshire	28
Haringey	14
Harrow	10
Herefordshire	2
Hertfordshire	34
Hillingdon	9
Hounslow	4
Isle of Wight	5
Islington	3
Kensington and Chelsea	6

	Number
Kent	35
Kingston upon Thames	7
Kingston-upon-Hull, City	4
Kirklees	5
Knowsley	3
Lambeth	28
Lancashire	7
Leeds	9
Leicester City	5
Leicestershire	20
Lewisham	28
Lincolnshire	23
Liverpool	11
Luton	5
Manchester	10
Medway	1
Merton	5
Milton Keynes	1
Monmouthshire	2
Neath PortTalbot	2
Newcastle upon Tyne	5
Newham	11
Newport	6
Norfolk	19
North Lincolnshire	3
North Somerset	5
North Tyneside	1
North Yorkshire	5
Northamptonshire	6
Northumberland	1
Nottinghamshire	4
Oldham	5
Oxfordshire	14
Peterborough	4
Plymouth	1
Poole	3
Portsmouth	4
Redbridge	9
Redcar and Cleveland	1
Richmond upon Thames	13
Rotherham	6
Salford	7
Sandwell	3
Sefton	6
Sheffield	4
Shropshire	4
Slough	3
Somerset	19
South Gloucestershire	8
South Tyneside	1
Southampton	6
Southend	4
Southwark	8
St Helens	1
Staffordshire	21
Stockport	3
Stockton-on-Tees	1
Suffolk	18
Sunderland	4
Surrey	29
Sutton	2
Swansea	1
Swindon	2
Thameside	1
Telford and Wrekin	2
Thurrock	3
Torbay	4
Tower Hamlets	1
Trafford	2
Wakefield	5
Walsall	21
Waltham Forest	3
Wandsworth	9
Warwickshire	6
West Sussex	12
Westminster	7
Wigan	5
Wiltshire	19
Windsor and Maidenhead	4
Wirral	5
Wokingham	1
Wolverhampton	2
Worcestershire	9
York City	1
Total	1,196

Teacher Assaults

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers were assaulted by pupils in each London borough in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [4804]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Tuition Fees

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of (i) higher education institutions and (ii) further education colleges that are planning to charge the full tuition fee of £3,000 from 2006. [3058]

Bill Rammell: Based on information released by the Office for Fair Access on 17 March 2005, we estimate that around 91 per cent. of HEIs and FECs are planning to charge the full tuition fee of £3,000. Based on access agreements assessed before 4 March 2005, 110 HEI's and FEC's were planning to charge the full fee of £3,000.

University College Worcester

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects a decision to be made on extending full university status to University College Worcester. [4842]

Bill Rammell: We are awaiting advice from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) on University College Worcester's application for university title. We expect to receive this soon.

University Departments (Closures)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* physics, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* chemistry departments in universities have closed since 1997. [3049]

Bill Rammell: Information on the closure, merger or opening of particular university courses and departments is not collected by the Department. Higher education institutions are autonomous organisations responsible for their own academic direction and strategic use of funds, and any decisions on closures of departments are made by them, not by Government or the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The then Secretary of State for Education and Skills wrote to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) at the beginning of December 2004 asking their advice on what types of action should be considered to strengthen and secure subjects of strategic national importance, including mathematics and science. HEFCE have set up an expert group to look at this issue and to report to the HEFCE board this month. The board will inform Ministers of the outcome.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Sentencing Policy

20. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many requests have been made in the past 12 months for the review of lenient sentences. [4735]

The Solicitor-General: For the period 1 June 2004 to 15 June 2005, 330 cases raising issues of unduly lenient sentences were submitted to the Law Offices for referral to the Court of Appeal. Requests came from the CPS, victims, their families, members of the public and Members of Parliament.

98 of the cases were referred to the Court of Appeal.

Witness Care Units

21. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will make a statement on witness care units in Merseyside. [4737]

The Solicitor-General: A pilot Witness Care Unit jointly staffed by the Crown Prosecution Service and police is currently dealing with North and South Sefton Magistrates Court cases and some Crown court work.

A Merseyside Witness Care Unit will be opened in October 2005. It will deal with all cases for the entire county. It will consist of 36 police and CPS staff; it will be based at Tithebarn House in Liverpool.

Ball-bearing Guns

22. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions there were in England and Wales for illegal use of ball-bearing guns in the last year for which figures are available. [4738]

The Solicitor-General: Crown Prosecution Service records include a count of the number of prosecutions under particular Acts of Parliament, and under specific sections of each Act. However, the offences in question are not the subject of discrete legislation, and CPS records therefore provide no indication of the number of proceedings undertaken.

Domestic Violence

23. **Barbara Follett:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to raise awareness of its measures to tackle domestic violence, with particular reference to Hertfordshire. [4739]

The Solicitor-General: After the passing of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act last year, the CPS published its revised public policy statement on domestic violence in February 2005. Its national network of domestic violence co-ordinators engage with specialists in other agencies and represent the CPS in local domestic violence forums. The CPS recognises that awareness raising and confidence building are important elements of its work against domestic violence. CPS Hertfordshire works constructively with its criminal justice partners and NGOs in the county to raise awareness of domestic violence as an issue and of strategies for dealing with it. For example, in March 2004 it was fully represented at the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board open day in Stevenage.

Criminal Trials (Special Measures)

Vera Baird: To ask the Solicitor General what monitoring he undertakes of the relationship between the granting of special measures in criminal trials and the outcome of trials. [4694]

The Solicitor-General: This type of monitoring is not undertaken. A correlation cannot be made between a special measures direction and a trial's outcome. The weight to be attached to a piece of evidence is a matter for the magistrates/jury. Where special measures are used, witnesses appear to appreciate them.

Ministers (Prosecutions)

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General what criteria the Law Officers apply in deciding whether to enter a plea of nolle prosequi in the case of a Minister of the Crown prosecuted for a criminal offence. [4910]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers act as guardians of the public interest when considering whether to enter a plea of nolle prosequi. In such cases, they apply the principles set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors. Whether the defendant whose case is under consideration is a Minister of the Crown or not is irrelevant to their decision.

Proceeds of Crime Act

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Solicitor General what the success rate of prosecutors in securing orders in criminal cases under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 has been since their introduction. [4736]

The Solicitor-General: Prosecutors from the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and other prosecutors make applications for restraint and confiscation orders under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA).

Since April 2004, the Joint Asset Recovery Database figures show that prosecutors have made 653 applications for restraint under POCA and earlier legislation, of which 650 have been successful. In the same period prosecutors have prepared 3,165 confiscation applications under POCA and earlier legislation, of which 2,007 POCA and 1,023 pre-POCA orders have been granted by the Crown Court.

Serious Fraud Office

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor General whether the Serious Fraud Office will investigate all cases of foreign bribery that pass through vetting stage. [3911]

The Solicitor-General: Given the public interest in maintaining the reputation of British industry abroad and the sums involved in the contracts concerned, it is likely that any such allegation would be investigated by the Serious Fraud Office depending on the weight of the evidence and whether the public interest would be served.

The Serious Fraud Office has been nominated as the Department that will vet all foreign bribery cases and as such will take the decision whether or not it will retain cases or pass them to other authorities.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor General (1) if he will list the jurisdictions to which the Serious Fraud Office provides mutual legal assistance with regard to allegations of overseas corruption offences; [3912]

(2) how many requests for mutual legal assistance from foreign jurisdictions the Serious Fraud Office has received which relate to allegations of overseas corruption offences in the last 10 years; and if he will list the jurisdictions from which these requests have come; [3913]

(3) how many requests for mutual legal assistance from foreign jurisdictions received by the Serious Fraud Office with regard to overseas corruption have resulted in domestic investigations being opened by the Serious Fraud Office in each of the last five years. [3915]

The Solicitor-General: To identify mutual legal assistance requests involving corruption over a 10 year period would incur disproportionate cost.

Since 1 January 2001, the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Unit of the Serious Fraud Office has received seven requests for assistance in cases involving corruption offences. These may relate to allegations of corruption by UK citizens or companies overseas, or to corruption by individuals or entities of the referring state.

The SFO does not disclose details of assistance provided to overseas investigations without consent from the referring jurisdiction or unless the referring jurisdiction has made public disclosures. The requests for assistance already in the public domain were from France and Norway.

In the last five years, there have been no requests for assistance involving corruption from overseas jurisdictions which have resulted in a domestic investigation being opened by the Serious Fraud Office. In 2003 a domestic investigation was opened following a request for assistance from Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning bribery offences as specified by the referring jurisdiction.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor General how many investigations into allegations of overseas corruption the Serious Fraud Office is conducting; and how many allegations are being vetted. [3916]

The Solicitor-General: The SFO is currently investigating four cases involving allegations of overseas corruption by British companies or individuals. In addition, there are 13 cases currently being vetted to decide if a full investigation should be instigated.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor General what action he is taking to ensure that the Serious Fraud Office has appropriate funding to pursue foreign bribery investigations. [3917]

The Solicitor-General: : The budget allocated to the SFO will increase in 2005–06 to £35.4 million to allow the SFO to continue to accept referrals that meet the acceptance criteria of the Department. To date, the SFO has not declined any allegations of overseas bribery due to insufficient resources.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor General what action he is taking to implement the OECD's recommendation that the Serious Fraud Office's role in leading foreign bribery investigations be confirmed. [3918]

The Solicitor-General: : The Government is currently considering how best to take forward the recommendations outlined by the OECD in their phase 2 report and will report on progress to the OECD Bribery Working Group in December. Part of the work that is being considered by Departments in response to the issue of overseas corruption is a rationalisation of the law enforcement response.

Guidance which governs implementation of the revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding will be placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

United States (Extradition)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will make a statement on those matters the Department has to take into account and what steps it has to take when it receives a request for extradition from the US. [4431]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) represents the interests of states that seek extradition of persons from the United Kingdom.

The CPS has to ensure that it fulfils the statutory requirements of the Extradition Act 2003. The United States of America (USA) has been designated a Part 2 territory by order of the Secretary of State; any request from the USA, therefore, has to comply with the requirements of Part 2 of the Act.

The Secretary of State, who receives the formal extradition request through diplomatic channels, has to certify under section 70 of the Extradition Act 2003 that the request for extradition is "valid". A request is valid if it contains the statement that the person is accused in the category 2 territory of the commission of an offence specified in the request or is alleged to be unlawfully at large after conviction by a court in the category 2 territory of an offence specified in the request.

The USA has been designated in that category of territory that no longer has to provide prima facie sworn evidence on those charges on which extradition is sought.

On receipt of an extradition request, the CPS checks that it contains the required documents, including an arrest warrant or a certificate of conviction, particulars of the offence and law, and evidence of identity.

The CPS also has to ensure that the offence specified in the request constitutes an extradition offence as defined by the Act.

Finally, the CPS checks that the documents are admissible (namely that they are signed by a judge, magistrate or other judicial authority of the USA or are authenticated by the oath of a witness).

If any part of the extradition request is deficient, the CPS advises the US authorities of the material required to satisfy the court in any ensuing extradition proceedings (which the CPS conducts on behalf of the USA).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3312]

Fiona Mactaggart: There are a total of 68 learning representatives within the Department. This is divided as follows:

Learning representatives in:	*Number*
The Prison Service[1]	42
The Criminal Records Bureau[2]	11
The United Kingdom Service Passport Service[2]	7
The Immigration and Nationality Directorate[2]	8

[1] Representatives of the Prison Officers Association (POA)
[2] Representatives of the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)

The Prison Service is consulting other recognised unions about the terms of a learning agreement and the appropriate number of related learning representatives. Separately the main Home Office including Immigration and Nationality Directorate is consulting recognised unions about the terms of a learning agreement and the appropriate number of learning representatives.

Eurostar

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether passengers travelling on Eurostar *(a)* from Waterloo to the continent and *(b)* from the continent to Waterloo have their baggage checked or searched by officials. [3627]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

Security directions served on Eurostar by the UK Department for Transport include requirements for the searching of a specified minimum proportion of passengers and their baggage at Waterloo and Ashford International stations. The proportion is variable and is commensurate with the prevailing level of threat.

Security arrangements in France and Belgium are the responsibilities of the French and Belgian Governments respectively. French, Belgian and UK Government officials meet regularly to discuss security and to ensure continued comparability of security standards.

Illegal Labour

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were in 2003 and 2004 of employers who employ people illegally resident in this country. [4555]

Andy Burnham: Two defendants were proceeded against for "Employing a person subject to immigration control who has attained the age of 16" under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, Sec eight, England and Wales in 2003.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2004' in the autumn.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the 42 probation boards in England and Wales will be retained under the National Offender Management Service arrangements. [3875]

Fiona Mactaggart: Work on the future organisational design of the National Offender Management Service has still to be concluded.

Pedicabs/Rickshaws

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* sexual and *(b)* other assaults have been committed by the riders of pedicabs or rickshaws in the last 12 months. [3179]

Fiona Mactaggart: It is not possible to identify those riders of pedicabs or rickshaws from the data held on the Home Office Court Proceedings database as this information is not centrally collected.

Police/Crime Statistics (Wales)

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* young people are held in prisons in Wales; and what the operational capacity is of each prison in Wales. [1072]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information requested, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system, is provided in the table.

Population and operational capacity of prison establishments, by age group[1]—Wales, 30 April 2005

	Adults	*Young persons*	*Operational capacity[2]*
Cardiff	735	—	754
Parc	573	386	1,036
Swansea	402	—	425
Usk/Prescoed	414	—	420

[1] Adults are those aged 21 years and over. Young persons are those aged under 21, including some 21-year-olds who have not been reclassified as adults.
[2] At 29 April 2005.

Prison Education

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the levels of basic *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy among (i) male young offenders, (ii) male adult offenders, (iii) female young offenders and (iv) female adult offenders were in each year between 1994 and 2004. [3245]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, Home Office statistics show that 43 per cent. of prisoners have numeracy

levels below level one and 37 per cent. have reading skills below level one.

Source:
Prison Statistics for England and Wales 2002.

Prison Staff (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the remuneration of London-based prison staff; and if he will make a statement. [2896]

Fiona Mactaggart: Each year, the Prison Service invites applications from all prisons for inclusion in its local pay scheme or for increasing existing local pay rates. These applications are considered by the Prison Service Management Board and evidence, which is shared with trade unions, is supplied to the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) which considers whether there is a case for adjustment of existing rates. In February, the PSPRB recommended that local pay rates should remain unchanged. The Home Secretary decided to implement the recommendations of the PSPRB in full with the local pay rates for most London prisons remaining at £4,000.

Prisoners (Team Sport)

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned regarding rates of reoffending by prisoners who play team sports in prison. [2703]

Fiona Mactaggart: No studies have been commissioned recently by the Home Office about rates of reoffending by prisoners who play team sports in prison. The last relevant research was the evaluation of the Colchester Military Training Centre as briefly used also for young offenders in the mid-1990s (Home Office Research Study 239, 2002).

Probation Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in the Probation Service in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend. [4587]

Fiona Mactaggart: The requested information is not available for the full period required. Data collected prior to 1 April 2003 is unreliable, and is not directly comparable with the more accurate figures collected since that time. The following figures show full time equivalent (FTE) figures for each quarter from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005.

Staffing information is collected by probation area, and is not collected in sufficient detail to allow figures for Southend to be presented separately. The staffing figures are provided for the Essex probation area only.

Staffing information for Essex probation area

	Essex probation area—FTE in post
30 June 2003	385.4
30 September 2003	383.7
31 December 2003	393.1
31 March 2004	399.1
30 June 2004	414.7
30 September 2004	406.5
31 December 2004	432.6

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in each probation area were on long-term sickness absence on the latest date available, broken down by grade. [4206]

Fiona Mactaggart: The National Probation Directorate does not hold information on how many members of staff are long-term sick within individual probation areas. The directorate monitors overall sickness across the 42 areas and approximately 45 per cent. of sickness absence is defined as long-term i.e. over 20 working days and absence recorded under the Disability Discrimination Act.

A national working group has been established to review sickness absence across the service and an action plan will be produced in the late summer to reduce absence levels. The National Probation Service has produced what are considered by the HSE to be first class strategies and policies for health and safety and stress. The directorate is currently leading a major project on the development and use of occupational health in the service.

Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the staff at Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre previously worked at St. John's Centre at Tiffield. [2877]

Fiona Mactaggart: Five members of staff currently employed at Rainsbrook previously worked at the St. John's Centre.

Seven other employees who have now left Rainsbrook were previously employed at St. John's.

Reoffending

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of defendants conditionally discharged for an offence reoffended within the period of discharge. [2706]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information is not held in the required form.

Secure Training Centres

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what response he will make to the review of the use of restraint in secure training centres; and if he will make a statement; [2902]

(2) if he will publish the review of the use of restraint in secure training centres for young people. [2903]

Fiona Mactaggart: My noble Friend the Baroness Scotland is considering advice from the Youth Justice Board on the findings of their review. We will write to my hon. Friend once the Government have decided their response.

Treatment/Rehabilitation of Offenders

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what facilities and premises are provided by

his Department in St. Albans for the provision of *(a)* treatment testing and *(b)* rehabilitation of offenders; and if he will make a statement. [3634]

Fiona Mactaggart: Drug treatment and testing is provided to offenders in St. Albans in a number of ways. The Drug Interventions Programme (DiP) provides a route out of crime and into treatment for drug misusing offenders, using their contact with the Criminal Justice System as an opportunity to engage then in treatment and support. In particular, the throughcare and aftercare elements of the programme are operating in St. Albans, with an enhanced arrest referral service and SWITCH, which picks up Prolific and Priority Offenders with treatment needs straight from prison.

The DIP project is based at The Old Ambulance Headquarters, Ascots Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4HL.

Offenders sentenced to Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs)/Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) (part of the new community order implemented as part of the Criminal Justice act 2003) is provided by Drugcare which provides treatment interventions, including drug testing, whilst a consultant psychiatrist assess and prescribes and delivers other medical interventions that may be required.

For offenders with drug misuse problems not on a DRR and not assessed as a priority and prolific offender, Hertfordshire Probation Area (HPA) has contracted the provision of assessments and counselling for offenders with drug and or alcohol problems who are subject to community penalties or on licence following imprisonment with Drugcare over a number of years.

They provide these services at HPA' offices at 62–72 Victoria Street, St. Albans AL1 3XH.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average were spent per week by prisoners at each young offender institution *(a)* in and *(b)* out of cells in the last period for which figures are available. [2713]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Prison Service does not record the time prisoners spend in and out of their cells but does measure the time cells are unlocked. The following table shows the number of hours for which young offenders were unlocked, in young offender institutions across England and Wales in 2004–05.

Establishment name	*Average hours unlocked on a weekday*	*Average hours unlocked on a weekend day*
Ashfield	10.5	10.5
Aylesbury	8.5	6.8
Brinsford	8.5	6.9
Castington	8.3	7.6
Coldingley	11.8	8.5
Deerbolt	8.2	5.4
Feltham	7.9	7.2
Glen Parva	8.9	5.7
Huntercombe	10.1	8.7
Lancaster Farms	10.7	9.7
Northallerton	8.8	6.5
Onley	8.9	7.7
Portland	7.6	5
Reading	8	6.6
Rochester	9	6
Stoke Heath	10.3	10.2
Swinfen Hall	10.4	6.8
Thorn Cross (Open)	12.5	12.5
Warren Hill	10.5	10
Werrington	10.7	8
Wetherby	9.8	6.5
Young Offenders Estate Average	9.5	7.7

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Acordis Factory

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of the Acordis factory in North East Lincolnshire. [2040]

Alun Michael: Since the announcement last month that Acordis was going into administration, the administrators have been working hard in co-operation with the company's management, employees, suppliers and customers to ensure its survival as a going concern.

I understand that the administrators have received a number of expressions of interest in the company which they are currently reviewing. In the meantime, it is continuing to trade and the support of its existing customers has resulted in an increase in orders. My colleagues and I will continue to monitor the situation.

Coal Health Claims

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* departmental press releases and *(b)* parliamentary (i) written and (ii) oral statements during 1999 referred directly to the vibration white finger and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease agreements with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and Vendside. [2643]

Malcolm Wicks: No such press releases or parliamentary statements were made during 1999.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many industrial disease claims for deceased miners were submitted in 2004. [2666]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2004, the number of claims submitted for deceased miners was as follows:

	Total deceased claims registered in 2004[1]
COPD	84,514
VWF	8

[1] Claims registered reflects the total of deceased claims registered, i.e. does not include claims that were registered live but have died since.

Claim receipts are those claims that are fully registered, i.e. exclude pool of claims accepted with minimum data, awaiting further information to permit cross-referencing and duplicate checks prior to full registration.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims for deceased miners were submitted by more than one party in each year between 2001 and 2004. [2673]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of duplicate claims submitted is as follows:

	COPD	*VWF*
2001	69	1
2002	61	14
2003	682	12
2004	6,692	0
Total	7,504	27

Note:
Claims registered reflects claims that were deceased when registered. These figures do not include partially registered claims or those awaiting checks or further information.

A process is in place to establish the correct claimant and/or solicitor in each duplicate claim to ensure that duplicate payments are not made. Claims are put on hold until this process has been completed.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who the individual signatories were to the claims handling agreements of 1999 between his Department and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and Vendside Ltd. [2708]

Malcolm Wicks: Both arrangements were signed by Nabarro Nathanson solicitors on behalf of the Department and by the General Secretary of the Union for Democratic Mineworkers (Nottingham section).

Consumer Trading and Standards Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what powers the proposed Consumer Trading and Standards Agency will have to *(a)* inspect and *(b)* set targets for local authorities trading standards. [4299]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Hampton Report recommended that a new body should be created at the centre of Government to co-ordinate work on consumer protection and trading standards.

In line with this recommendation, DTI will shortly be issuing a consultation on the creation of the Consumer and Trading Standards Agency (CTSA).

This consultation will inform decisions about the agency's roles and responsibilities, including in relation to Trading Standards.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the timetable is for the establishment of the proposed Consumer Trading and Standards Agency. [4300]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DTI will shortly be issuing a consultation on the establishment of the new Consumer and Trading Standards Agency, as recommended in the Hampton Report.

Hampton recommended that the CTSA should be operational by 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the impact of the proposed Consumer Trading and Standards Agency on local authority trading standards. [4356]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Hampton Report recommended that a new body should be created at the centre of Government to co-ordinate work on consumer protection and trading standards.

In line with this recommendation, DTI will shortly be issuing a consultation on the creation of the Consumer and Trading Standards Agency (CTSA).

This consultation will inform decisions about the agency's roles and responsibilities, including in relation to Trading Standards.

Export Control Organisation

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what procedures the Export Control Organisation have in place for preventing corruption on defence sales for which it gives a licence; and if he will make a statement. [2553]

Malcolm Wicks: The Export Control Organisation do not have any procedures in place for preventing corruption on defence sales for which it gives a licence, except in so far as we require licence applicants to specify the end-use, end-user and, in the case of Standard Individual Export Licences, the value of the exports.

More generally, the Government have taken a number of steps in recent years with regard to preventing corruption and empowering law enforcers to investigate such offences. For example, by means of part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (ATCS Act), which clarifies that the existing offences of bribery apply to the bribery of foreign officials and introduces a new jurisdiction over acts of bribery committed by UK nationals or UK-based companies overseas.

The UK has also ensured it has an adequate legal framework to implement the OECD Convention, as specifically acknowledged by the OECD Working Group on Bribery. In addition, the Government have made progress towards ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption with the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

The Government continue to make efforts elsewhere to prevent foreign bribery, for example, by stepping up its awareness-raising activities with the business community, public officials—in the UK and overseas missions—and NGOs to improve knowledge of the law and of the damage caused by international corruption. We are exploring sector-specific initiatives with business, e.g. in construction and engineering, to ensure that companies operating in these high-risk areas understand their obligations. And we continue to support codes of conduct and business principles promulgated by the likes of the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Economic Forum. Separately, ECGD has launched a consultation exercise on its anti-bribery measures (applicants for Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) support must of course already comply with its anti-bribery and

corruption procedures, which are amongst the most robust in use by any of the world's leading Export Credit Agencies).

At the same time, law enforcers have streamlined the arrangements that relate to the handling of such allegations. To this end, the Serious Fraud Office now play a central part in the process and is investigating a number of cases. Law enforcers continue to keep these arrangements under review. The Government have also highlighted the provisions of part 12 of ATCS Act in the National Policing Plan, which asks forces to support SFO investigations involving these new powers and to take on those investigations not falling within the SFO's remit.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Export Control Organisation requires companies to sign no-bribery warranties before it will issue a licence. [2554]

Malcolm Wicks: The Export Control Organisation does not require companies to sign no-bribery warranties before it will issue a licence, but this in no way implies a lack of commitment by the Government to action against bribery and corruption.

More generally, the Government have taken a number of steps in recent years with regard to preventing corruption and empowering law enforcers to investigate such offences. For example, by means of part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (ATCS Act), which clarifies that the existing offences of bribery apply to the bribery of foreign officials and introduces a new jurisdiction over acts of bribery committed by UK nationals or UK-based companies overseas.

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Funding Allocations (Yorkshire)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his answer of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 113–44W, in Yorkshire and the Humber, what the distribution of *(a)* national funds and *(b)* EU funds were to (i) North Yorkshire, (ii) East Yorkshire, (iii) South Yorkshire and (iv) West Yorkshire in each of the last three years. [1792]

Alun Michael: The information is as follows:

£

	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Objective 1			
European Regional Development Fund	28,610,888	66,140,394	77,692,767
European Social Fund	27,372,602	29,370,428	32,980,128
European Agricultural Guidance Guarantee Fund	1,221,622	2,896,258	2,020,67
Objective 2			
North Yorkshire	1,236,638	6,401,401	12,158,697
The Humber	5,622,833	20,099,226	19,879,713
West Yorkshire	7,759,821	28,966,490	22,693,470

Note:

1. Figures are grant only to avoid double counting of match funding as many of the projects used other national funds as match funding.
2. European Funding works on calendar years.
3. Objective 3 is a national programme and cannot be split into sub-regions.

Yorkshire Forward has made available a total of £136.30 million towards economic development in Yorkshire and Humber over the last three years (excluding European Funding) Sub-regional funding split below. Yorkshire Forward works on financial years.

£

	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Yorkshire Forward North Yorkshire	1,300,000	1,800,000	2,100,000
Region wide	11,100,000	12,300,000	23,900,000
South Yorkshire	9,300,000	13,000,000	20,000,000
The Humber	3,600,000	5,900,000	9,300,000
West Yorkshire	2,500,000	9,600,000	10,600,000

Health Care Associated Infection

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research funding has been provided in the last five years by the Medical Research Council for research into the effectiveness of bacteriophages in controlling healthcare associated infection. [3347]

Alan Johnson: During the last five years the MRC has awarded two grants, totalling £303,000, to studies relating the effect of bacteriophages on bacterial

infection which are, although not specifically, relevant to controlling healthcare associated infection. These are:

Dr. J. S. Soothill (Institute of Child Health) "Investigation of the Potential of Bacteriophage for the Treatment of Staphylococcal Infection".

Dr. J. Whyte (CAMR) "Evaluation of bacteriophage for the control of P aeruginosa infection in C.F. patients using in vivo and in vitro models".

Government do not prescribe to individual research councils what research they fund. Research excellence and importance to health are the primary considerations in MRC's funding decisions. Research proposals received by MRC undergo full peer review and assessment by one of the MRC's research boards.

Insolvency

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of trends in *(a)* personal and *(b)* corporate insolvencies since 1997. [3710]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Insolvency levels, both personal and corporate can and do fluctuate, influenced by a number of economic factors such as inflation rates, the availability and price of credit, employment levels and economic growth. The trend in personal insolvencies has been steadily upward since 1997 and reflects in part the extent to which access to personal credit has increased. Corporate insolvencies increased modestly between 1997 and 2002, since when they have fallen, due to a stable economic environment for business and an increasing tendency for businesses to address their financial problems at an earlier stage.

Internet Fraud

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to protect users of internet auction and sales sites from fraud. [4716]

Alun Michael: Government Departments are working with industry organisations and law enforcement agencies through groups such as the Internet Crime Forum to tackle internet crime.

Two of the main approaches used in dealing with fraud over the internet are prevention and education. A large amount of fraud can be prevented if organisations and individuals have proper fraud prevention measures in place. The Home Office publishes fraud prevention advice on the e-tailing mini website, which forms part of the Crime Reduction website. It helps consumers and businesses protect themselves when buying and selling over the internet.

The Government are also involved in the development of Project Endurance, an initiative that will launch an internet security public awareness campaign later this year. The project is an alliance of public and private sector bodies, which brings together several Government Departments and law enforcement organisations with a number of high profile private sector companies. This campaign will be targeted at micro business and consumers, primarily aimed at helping them gain confidence in using the internet.

The Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000 protect consumers against payment card fraud including credit cards. The regulations apply to contracts made at a distance including online ones. The card issuer is required to reimburse consumers the full amount in the event of fraudulent use of the consumer's card.

The Government issued guidance in December 2003 advising consumers how to guard against the risks associated with internet auction sites. Details are available from Consumer Direct Online at www.consumerdirect gov.uk/auctions.

In 2004 the Office of Fair Trading published Tips for Safe Trading when buying from private sellers. Information is available from www.oft.gov.uk/ internet + auctions.

The Home Office website provides information about internet crime, potential scams and how not be a victim of fraud. Their website address is www.homeoffice. gov.uk/crime/fraud/preventationadvice.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4117]

Alan Johnson: We do not have figures for laptops prior to 1998. Before that laptops were expensive and were not widely available within DTI. In summary:

Ministers and Special Advisers

The number of laptops in use by Ministers and special advisers between 2000 and May 2005 varied between five in 2000 and eight by 2005. We do not have a breakdown of these.

DTI officials (Remote access to DTI Network)

1998—778 laptops used as standalone machines. Six lost/stolen. No running costs.

1999—1,325 laptops used as standalone machines. Five lost/ stolen. No running costs.

2000—1,733 laptops used as standalone machines. Six lost/ stolen. No running costs.

2001—300 laptops were in use for secure remote access at a cost of £360,000. 1587

laptops used as standalone machines. No running costs for these. Nine lost/stolen.

2002—900 laptops were in use for secure remote access at a cost of £1,080,000. 1688

laptops used as standalone machines. No running costs for these. 25 lost/stolen.

2003—1,400 laptops were in use for secure remote access at a cost of £1,430,000.

1338 laptops used as standalone machines. No running costs for these. 27 lost/stolen.

2004—1,550 laptops were in use for secure remote access at a cost of £1,575,000.

Approximately 1100 Laptops used as standalone machines. No running costs for these 12 were lost/stolen.

2005—1,500 laptops are in use for secure remote access, expected cost £1,525,000.

Approximately 1000 laptops used standalone machines. No running costs for these. 14 have been lost/stolen so far this year.

LES Project

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 111W, on Nuclear Industry, to the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead (Harry Cohen), if he will give an undertaking that United Kingdom public funds will not be spent on this project. [4595]

Malcolm Wicks: Westinghouse operates in the United States as a commercial business. It generates its own profits and is free, within a strategic framework set by BNFL in consultation with its shareholder, to pursue business opportunities.

Miners' Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which claims handlers have sold miners' compensation claims to solicitors; and what action he is planning to take on this issue. [4859]

Malcolm Wicks: Although the Department is aware that claims farmers have been passing claims to solicitors, we do not keep a record of individual firms.

Currently, there are no laws covering the activities of claims handling agents where a client willingly enters into an agreement with them. However, following Sir David Clementi's review last year into the regulation of legal services, the Lord Chancellor has announced that legislation will be put forward that will see all those companies involved in claims processing come under a new legal services regulator. Such a regulator will have responsibility for ensuring that the services provided by all claims handling agents are of a required standard.

Nuclear Power

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon that is released per unit of electricity through the lifecycle of a nuclear power station, taking into account the building of the nuclear station and the transportation of nuclear materials; and if he will make a statement. [2642]

Malcolm Wicks: We are aware of a number of non-governmental studies on this, but DTI has made no such estimate.

Nuclear Transport Ships

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many nuclear transport ships are owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; and what the specifications of each are. [3121]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) owns two vessels the 'Atlantic Osprey' and the 'European Shearwater'. They were transferred to the NDA from BNFL on 1 April 2005 and are now registered in the NDA's name. Their specifications and certification are in accordance with those specified in the International Maritime Organisations' (IMO) International Code for the Safe Carriage of Packaged Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium, and High Level Radioactive Wastes on Board Ships (INF Code). Details on the INF Code can be found at www.imo.org/home.asp. Information relating to the security systems in place on such vessels are confidential for security reasons.

Parking Charges (Airports)

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will invite the Competition Commission to investigate the level of car parking charges in force at airports in the UK. [3700]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At the five-yearly reviews conducted by the Competition Commission of the three BAA London airports and Manchester airport, the Commission is able to examine all activities conducted by the airports, including car parking. Where it concludes that the airport has been acting against the public interest in any of these activities the Commission can ask the CAA to impose a remedy in the form of a condition on the airport. The Competition Commission last reviewed the four airports during 2002. It did not make any public interest findings in relation to car parking at any of the airports but did indicate that car parking at Manchester airport was an issue to which it might wish to return at the next review.

Plutonium Consignments

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when British Nuclear Fuels informed his Department that it planned to send consignments of plutonium to *(a)* French MOX plutonium nuclear fuel manufacturers Cogema and *(b)* Belgian MOX manufacturers Belgonucleaire; what details and when, of the proposed security arrangements for these plutonium transports were made available to (i) his Department and (ii) the Office of Civil Nuclear Security; when this was made available; and who will be responsible for funding for the implementation of the security arrangements for these shipments. [3123]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* I understand that BNFL is considering the transport of plutonium to France and Belgium as one of a number of options to repay loans of plutonium made to BNFL by companies in these countries. No formal plans have been submitted to the Department.

Any such shipment will be carried out in accordance with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR), which are administered and enforced by the DTFs Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS). A key requirement of the NISR is that a Transport Security Plan is submitted to OCNS for approval. All details of this plan, including dates, are confidential and it is not Government policy to release such information. OCNS will not approve the plan until it is satisfied that all measures are in place and are adequately robust to counter any credible threat. The responsibility for any costs of security arrangements falls onto BNFL.

Public Money Use Guidance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has issued guidance to regional development agencies concerning their use of public money. [3742]

Alun Michael *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* Each of the eight regional development agencies outside London is issued with a management statement and financial memorandum under Section 27 of the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998; the London Development Agency receives a 'Grant offer letter', which serves the same purposes. These documents set out the Agency's powers to offer financial assistance and identify various Treasury guidance concerning the use of public money.

RDAs

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what budget was available to each regional development agency in England for each of the last three financial years; how much each spent on *(a)* running costs and *(b)* management costs in each year; and what proportion of the budget each represented in each year. [1274]

Alun Michael: For financial years 2002–03 and 2003–04, information for each Regional Development Agency (RDA) in England is detailed as follows. The Department does not monitor the RDAs' spend in terms of running costs and management costs. However, these costs, included as shown, are based on certain assumptions (see footnote). Figures in bracket represent these categories as percentage of each RDA's net budget allocation for that year.

£000

	Budget		*Running costs*[1]		*Management costs*[1]	
	2002–03	*2003–04*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Advantage West Midlands	205,156	252,506	9,159(4.5)	11,908(4.7)	6,457(3.1)	7,259(2.9)
East of England Development Agency	89,413	86,799	5,435(6.1)	5,810(6.7)	3,664(4.1)	4,037(4.7)
East Midlands Development Agency	102,892	130,127	5,569(5.4)	6,851(5.3)	5,611(5.5)	6,027(4.6)
London Development Agency	296,059	317,668	8,613(2.9)	12,980(4.1)	11,198(3.8)	13,291(4.2)
North West Development Agency	274,855	338,595	10,784(3.9)	14,128(4.2)	33,347(12.1)	45,775(13.5)
One North East	193,828	226,345	9,186(4.7)	12,288(5.4)	9,689(5.0)	9,736(4.3)
South East England Development Agency	115,034	140,718	8,678(7.5)	12,629(9.0)	6,473(3.3)	6,645(4.7)
South West of England Regional Development Agency	101,958	104,856	7,662 (7.5)	9,541 (9.1)	8,132 (8.0)	8,378 (8.0)
Yorkshire Forward	210,274	267,050	10,004(4.8)	12,093(4.5)	6,604(3.1)	7,317(2.7)

[1] Running costs and managements costs equates to "staff costs" and "other administration costs" respectively, as defined in the RDAs' Audited Accounts for 2003–04

Similar information for the financial year 2004–05 is not yet available until the RDAs' annual accounts have been audited. However, indicative estimates, by applying the percentages in 2003–04 under these categories to the RDAs' net budget allocations for 2004–05, are given as follows. These figures will need to be revised after the RDAs' annual accounts have been audited and laid before Parliament in July 2005.

£000

	Budget	*Indicative estimates*	
	2004–05	*Running costs*	*Management costs*
Advantage West Midlands	237,314	11,154	6,882
East of England Development Agency	92,177	6,176	4,332
East Midlands Development Agency	133,276	7,064	6,131
London Development Agency	327,642	13,433	13,761
North West Development Agency	366,968	15,413	49,541
One North East	228,651	12,347	9,832
South East England Development Agency	129,825	11,684	6,102
South West of England Regional Development Agency	115,758	10,534	9,261
Yorkshire Forward	290,497	13,072	7,843

Royal Mail

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of the Royal Mail. [4691]

Barry Gardiner: The Government want to see a successful Royal Mail providing excellent services to its customers. The Government are committed to reviewing the impact on Royal Mail of market liberalisation on Royal Mail, which allows alternative carriers to offer postal services in competition with Royal Mail. We are currently working on the details of the review and hope to announce these shortly.

Solar Grants Programme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of the Solar Grants Programme operated by the Energy Savings Trust; how much funding remains to be allocated from the programme; how many applications are outstanding; and if he will make a statement. [4795]

Malcolm Wicks: The PV Major Demonstration programme has been extended to run until March 2006. A low carbon buildings programme will supersede both this and the Clear Skies programme. A consultation document for the new programme will be released on 23 June 2005.

Of a total of approximately 1250 stream one applications there are currently 481 that have been allocated grant funding from the existing budget and are yet to be completed. Of the 200 stream two approved projects there are 98 yet to be completed.

There are a further 30 stream two projects to be assessed at the next independent selection panel meeting in July 2005.

There are still currently £5.3 million unallocated under the current budget.

Television Channel Grants

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list *(a)* how many and *(b)* which regional development agencies have given grants towards promoting, setting up or sustaining a television channel or channels; and whether he was consulted about such use of public money. [3741]

Alun Michael *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* I understand that two of England's regional development agencies have given grants towards promoting or setting up TV channels. The London Development Agency is investing a total of £630,000 in London TV as part of a three-year grant agreement with Visit London. Along with another partner, Yorkshire Forward has invested £2.9 million over three years in a new digital satellite television channel called Propellor to promote the region's film and television talents.

The regional development agencies are required to seek the consent of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to give financial assistance outside their delegated authority. The LDA's grant to London TV was considered as part of the grant to Visit London and the agency was granted consent. Yorkshire Forward's investment in Propellor was within the agency's delegated authority.

Wassenaar Arrangement

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what policy changes have been made in the past year to the UK's application of the Wassenaar Arrangement; and if he will make a statement. [4875]

Malcolm Wicks: No policy changes have been made in the past year to the UK's application of commitments made within the Wassenaar Arrangement. The Government continues to fully support the export control activities and principles of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits (Derbyshire)

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Amber Valley and *(b)* Derbyshire are in receipt of (i) incapacity benefit and (ii) industrial injury benefit. [4821]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the tables.

Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disability allowance (SDA) claimants in areas shown as at February 2005

	Amber Valley	Derbyshire
IB/SDA	4,600	43,600
IB	4,000	38,600
SDA	500	5,000

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and may not sum due to rounding.
2. IB figures include credit-only cases.
3. Derbyshire figures are the total for the 10 parliamentary constituencies within the county of Derbyshire and Derby unitary authority.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB), reduced earnings allowance (REA) and retirement allowance (RA) recipients in areas shown as at 30 September 2004

	Number
Amber Valley	995
Derbyshire	9,720

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 to ensure anonymity.
2. A recipient may be in receipt of IIDB or REA/RA or both.
3. Derbyshire figures are the total for the 10 parliamentary constituencies within the county of Derbyshire and Derby unitary authority.

Source:
Industrial Injuries Computer System, 100 per cent. count.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contingency plans have been made for the transfer of child support functions to the HM Revenue and Customs. [3575]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have no such plans.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when Stephen Brice, reference 1040238581, will have his payments to the Child Support Agency calculated under the new system. [4783]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information about individual cases is confidential and not disclosed.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the total number of UK citizens claiming incapacity related benefits for each year since 1978–79; and if he will make a statement. [885]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 25 May 2005]:* Information is not available in the format requested.

As a result of numerous changes to the benefits system the information on incapacity related benefits requested is not directly comparable over the whole period.

Incapacity related benefits between 1978 and 1983 included sickness benefit and the incapacity benefits of the time: invalidity benefit; non-contributory invalidity pension and housewives non-contributory invalidity pension.

In 1983, Statutory Sick Pay, paid by employers, was introduced. This had the effect of removing a large number of claimants from sickness benefit.

Between 1984 and April 1995 incapacity related benefits included sickness benefit and the incapacity benefits of the time: invalidity benefit and severe disablement allowance.

Since 13 April 1995, sickness benefit and invalidity benefit were replaced by incapacity benefit. From that date incapacity related benefits have consisted entirely of the incapacity benefits: incapacity benefit itself plus severe disablement allowance.

The available information is in the tables.

Incapacity related benefits claimants in Great Britain on the last day of the Department's statistical year (1978–83)

	Incapacity benefits[1]	*Sickness benefit*
1978	769,900	471,900
1979	832,100	430,400
1980	852,400	384,000
1981	872,800	352,600
1982	951,800	393,200
1983	1,008,400	338,400

[1] Incapacity benefits were invalidity benefit, non-contributory invalidity pension, housewives non-contributory invalidity pension and sickness benefits credits-only cases, until 1983.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures include some people over pension age.

Source:

Information Directorate 1 per cent. Sample

Incapacity related benefits claimants in Great Britain on the last day of the Department's statistical year (1984–95)

	Incapacity benefits[1]	*Sickness benefit*
1984	1,073,600	190,300
1985	1,146,700	179,700
1986	1,219,500	178,700
1987	1,305,800	109,600
1988	1,421,200	117,500
1989	1,557,900	109,200
1990	1,699,500	103,400
1991	1,862,400	109,600
1992	2,061,300	138,400
1993	2,283,100	147,000
1994	2,451,300	127,400
1995 (April)	2,627,900	127,200

[1] Incapacity benefits were invalidity benefit, severe disablement allowance and sickness benefits credits-only cases, up to April 1995.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures include some people over pension age.

Source:

Information Directorate 1 per cent. Sample

Incapacity related benefits claimants in Great Britain at the quarter shown (1995–2004)

As at November:	*Incapacity benefits*[1]
1995	2,767,500
1996	2,748,100
1997	2,738,800
1998	2,671,300
1999	2,637,500
2000	2,677,900
2001	2,705,100
2002	2,710,100
2003	2,720,500
2004	2,696,500

[1] Incapacity benefits are incapacity benefit, incapacity benefit credits-only and severe disablement allowance since November 1995.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred
2. Figures include some people over pension age.

Source:

Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many recipients of incapacity benefit *(a)* returned to work, *(b)* died and *(c)* passed the state pension age in each quarter since 1997; and what proportion of all incapacity benefit claimants each represent; [1337]

(2) what the proportion of terminations of entitlement to incapacity benefit has been as a result of failing the personal capacity assessment or all work test in each of the last eight years. [1339]

Mrs. McGuire: The numbers leaving incapacity benefits and returning to work are not recorded in this format. An estimate of the proportion of incapacity benefit leavers returning to employment can be obtained from the annual Destination of Benefit Leavers Survey (DWP In-House Research Report no. 132), which is available in the Library. The latest published figures, for 2004 benefit leavers, show that 49 per cent. of incapacity benefit leavers surveyed had returned to work of 16 hours or more per week.

The available information is in the table.

Incapacity benefit and severe disability allowance terminations each quarter by reason and proportion.

	All terminations	*Death of claimant*	*Percentage*	*Award of RP*	*Percentage*	*Failed PCA*	*Percentage*
February 1997	244,000	8,300	3.41	5,600	2.28	35,500	14.54
May 1997	257,000	6,900	2.68	15,200	5.90	38,400	14.95
August 1997	241,800	7,500	3.10	17,800	7.34	35,100	14.51
November 1997	245,200	8,300	3.39	17,400	7.09	36,300	14.82
February 1998	230,400	8,100	3.52	18,700	8.13	37,000	16.04
May 1998	238,500	7,800	3.27	21,200	8.88	34,400	14.44
August 1998	215,800	6,500	3.02	20,700	9.57	35,300	16.37
November 1998	242,400	7,400	3.05	19,200	7.91	n/a	n/a
February 1999	193,700	8,100	4.20	19,400	10.02	31,900	16.46
May 1999	214,400	6,900	3.24	23,300	10.85	30,300	14.13
August 1999	217,400	7,500	3.43	23,500	10.79	28,200	12.96
November 1999	214,400	7,100	3.32	22,000	10.25	28,300	13.18
February 2000	213,300	8,800	4.11	22,900	10.73	27,600	12.92
May 2000	193,400	6,800	3.52	17,000	8.79	24,600	12.74

Incapacity benefit and severe disability allowance terminations each quarter by reason and proportion.

	All terminations	Death of claimant	Percentage	Award of RP	Percentage	Failed PCA	Percentage
August 2000	174,800	6,300	3.59	9,200	5.26	22,900	13.10
November 2000	180,400	7,000	3.88	8,400	4.67	20,300	11.23
February 2001	183,400	8,100	4.44	8,900	4.84	18,700	10.20
May 2001	187,300	7,300	3.89	11,300	6.01	20,200	10.78
August 2001	175,200	6,700	3.80	10,200	5.83	21,600	12.34
November 2001	188,400	7,200	3.82	10,000	5.31	26,400	14.01
February 2002	176,200	7,500	4.24	11,200	6.33	23,900	13.56
May 2002	181,100	6,200	3.41	12,100	6.67	25,700	14.21
August 2002	176,400	6,500	3.68	12,500	7.11	22,800	12.92
November 2002	185,900	7,600	4.09	11,100	5.95	27,000	14.51
February 2003	170,600	7,300	4.29	13,400	7.88	22,900	13.45
May 2003	166,200	6,500	3.94	15,500	9.32	24,400	14.71
August 2003	183,200	6,800	3.69	9,200	5.04	24,600	13.44
November 2003	187,200	7,100	3.78	6,000	3.23	24,700	13.22
February 2004	173,200	8,300	4.77	12,500	7.24	23,500	13.55
May 2004	175,600	6,600	3.78	16,300	9.27	27,100	15.41
August 2004	180,600	7,100	3.92	16,700	9.27	25,600	14.16
November 2004	128,900	6,700	5.21	14,200	11.01	30,100	23.36

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. "n/a" means not available. This is because of changes to the recording system, terminations due to the Personal Capability Assessment for this quarter are unreliable and are included in an 'Other reasons' category.
3. Figures have been updated to include late notified terminations, including terminations for retirement pension.
4. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. For illustration purposes, total terminations for August 2003 increased by 34 per cent. in the year following their initial release.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incapacity benefit claims were made from people previously registered as unemployed in each year between 1990–91 and 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [962]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the table.

Proportion of incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disability allowance (SDA) commencements previously receiving jobseeker's allowance (JSA)

Year of commencement to IB/SDA	All IB/SDA commencements	Those who had claimed JSA within previous 90 days	Proportion of IB/SDA commencements who previously claimed JSA (percentage)
1 September 1995–31 August 1996	1,012,100	307,700	30.4
1 September 1996–31 August 1997	997,600	312,100	31.3
1 September 1997–31 August 1998	869,400	247,700	28.5
1 September 1998–31 August 1999	828,900	242,200	29.2
1 September 1999–31 August 2000	799,700	236,100	29.5
1 September 2000–31 August 2001	775,200	227,500	29.3
1 September 2001–31 August 2002	728,200	209,200	28.7
1 September 2002–31 August 2003	715,600	208,300	29.1
1 September 2003–31 August 2004	684,700	189,700	29.2

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Percentages are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent.
2. Commencement figures are not available prior to 1995.
3. Data are not yet available for final commencements post-August 2004.
4. 'Claimed JSA within previous 90 days' also includes a small number of IB/SDA claims where the computer system JSA end date was up to seven days after the IB/SDA start date. This category also includes cases who may have claimed another benefit (eg income support) between JSA and IB/SDA.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. terminations dataset.

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Agency

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed by the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Agency in each of the last five years of its existence, broken down by grade; how many of the staff employed by the agency on 5 April are now employed by the Pensions Regulator, broken down by grade; and how many new staff have been employed by the Pensions Regulator since 6 April, broken down by grade. [4346]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is contained in the following tables. The information has been supplied by the Pensions Regulator.

Staff employed by OPRA in each of the last five years of its existence (by grade) [1]

Grade	31 March 2001	31 March 2002	31 March 2003	31 March 2004	31 March 2005
1	7	8	6	5	3
2	39	51	43	37	31
3	10	11	12	9	0
4	6	4	5	8	18
5	14	19	26	31	41
6	1	0	0	0	0
7	3	7	9	4	0
8	4	6	8	13	19
9	31	34	37	51	48
10	9	11	10	11	0
11	8	8	7	11	35
12	6	9	14	12	14
13	9	10	11	8	1
14	3	3	3	7	15
15	1	1	2	1	2
16	2	2	3	0	0
17	1	1	1	0	0
Directors	0	0	0	5	5
CEO	1	1	1	1	1
Chairman	1	1	1	1	1
Total Brighton	156	787	199	215	234
AA	23	21	18	14	5
AO	31	31	28	25	18
EO	7	6	9	7	7
HEO	3	4	4	5	4
SEO	1	1	1	1	1
Total Newcastle	65	63	60	52	35
Grand total	221	250	259	267	269

[1] Grade 1 is the lowest

Staff employed on 5 April 2005 who are now employed by the Pensions Regulator

Grade	Staff
1	2
2	29
3	0
4	18
5	36
6	0
7	0
8	18
9	47
10	0
11	30
12	13
13	1
14	14
15	2
16	0
17	0
Directors	5
CEO	1
Chairman	1
Total	217

New staff employed by the Pensions Regulator (6 April 2005 to 10 June 2005)

Grade	Staff
1	0
2	1
3	0
4	1
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	1
9	0
10	0
11	0
12	1
13	0
14	0
15	0
16	0
17	0
Directors	0
Executives	2
CEO	0
Chairman	0
Total	6

Unemployment/Incapacity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the differential between the value of incapacity benefit and its predecessor benefits and unemployment benefit in each year between 1979–80 and 2005–06; and if he will make a statement. [970]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the tables.

Nominal rates of invalidity benefit (IVB) and unemployment benefit (UB)/jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for single claimants between 1979 and 1994

£ per week

	IVB (1)	UB/JSA (2)	Difference (1)-(2)
November 1979	23.30	18.50	4.80
November 1980	26.00	20.65	5.35
November 1981	28.35	22.50	5.85
November 1982	31.45	25.00	6.45
November 1983	32.60	27.05	5.55
November 1984	34.25	28.45	5.80
November 1985	38.30	30.45	7.85
July 1986	38.70	30.80	7.90
April 1987	39.50	31.45	8.05
April 1988	41.15	32.75	8.40
April 1989	43.60	34.70	8.90
April 1990	46.90	37.35	9.55
April 1991	52.00	41.40	10.60
April 1992	54.15	43.10	11.05
April 1993	56.10	44.65	11.45
April 1994	57.60	45.45	12.15

Source:
Annual Abstract of Statistics

Nominal rates of incapacity benefit short term lower (IBSTL), incapacity benefit short term higher (IBSTH), incapacity benefit long term (IBLT) and unemployment benefit (UB)/jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for single claimants between 1995 and 2005

£ per week

	IBSTL (3)	IBSTH (4)	IBLT (5)	UB/JSA (6)	(3)-(6)	Difference (4)-(6)	(5)-(6)
April							
1995	44.40	52.50	58.85	46.45	-2.05	6.05	12.40
1996	46.15	54.55	61.15	48.25	-2.10	6.30	12.90
1997	47.10	55.70	62.45	49.15	-2.05	6.55	13.30
1998	48.80	57.70	64.70	50.35	-1.55	7.35	14.35
1999	50.35	59.55	66.75	51.40	-1.05	8.15	15.35
2000	50.90	60.20	67.50	52.20	-1.30	8.00	15.30
2001	52.60	62.20	69.75	53.05	-0.45	9.15	16.70
2002	53.50	63.25	70.95	53.95	-0.45	9.30	17.00
2003	54.40	64.35	72.15	54.65	-0.25	9.70	17.50
2004	55.90	66.15	74.15	55.65	0.25	10.50	18.50
2005	57.65	68.20	76.45	56.20	1.45	12.00	20.25

Source:
Annual Abstract of Statistics

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units are designated by his Department to be deployed to Afghanistan during *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [3698]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom will deploy the 1st Battalion The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment to Afghanistan in October 2005, to replace the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, as our principal contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul and Northern Afghanistan.

In May 2006, the Headquarters Group of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) will deploy to Kabul as the Headquarters of the ISAF. We are currently assessing the nature and scale of our future commitment in Afghanistan.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in France about possible collaboration on the (i) acquisition and (ii) construction of aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement; [3921]

(2) what discussions have taken place with French defence officials regarding the adoption by France of the UK's aircraft carrier design; and how much he expects France to pay for the right to use the UK design. [3920]

Mr. Ingram: Ministry of Defence officials have met their French counterparts on several occasions to discuss what the possibilities might be for co-operation between our two countries in the procurement of our respective next generation aircraft carriers. It is too soon to say what, if any, co-operation there will be as both countries believe that areas of beneficial co-operation are best determined by our respective industries. Ongoing studies by industry will determine the optimum and most cost-effective way in which any co-operative options can be implemented. It would be inappropriate to speculate on what industry's proposals may consist of, but Governments will take a view on their proposals, when available, later this year.

Defence Logistics Organisation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected annual savings are from the integration of the Medical Supplies Agency and the Warship Supply Agency into the Defence Logistics Organisation. [3954]

Mr. Ingram: The Medical Supplies Agency (MSA) transferred to the Defence Logistics Organisation (DLO) from the Surgeon General's Department on 1 April 2002. It changed from a Defence Agency to the

Medical Supplies Integrated Project Team on 1 April 2005. The estimated savings in the following table are derived from the overall MSA Transformation Programme and not specifically from any change of status.

	£ million
2005-06	13.9
2006-07	15.7
2007-08	15.9
2008-09	16.2

The Warship Support Agency (WSA) was disestablished in April 2005 as part of the wider Defence Logistics Organisation Restructuring Programme, to allow the full benefits from the overall restructuring process and organisational changes to be realised. Cost savings directly attributable to the change in the WSA's status alone are limited. These relate to the cost of administering the agency and are an estimated £250,000 per annum.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average periods of service have been performed by members of the armed forces in the Falklands since 1981. [5011]

Mr. Ingram: Deployment tour lengths in the Falkland Islands vary with the service involved. For the Royal Navy and Army, tours are usually of six months duration. RAF officer tours are for either six months or four months duration. For RAF other ranks tours are usually four months.

There are a number of continuity postings on the Falkland Islands which may be accompanied and are usually of one year's duration, although this tour length can be extended for service reasons.

Iraq

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make representations to his United States counterpart to investigate claims made by former US Marine Jimmy Massey that US coalition forces in Iraq shot dead unarmed Iraqi civilians at roadblocks in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [2904]

Mr. Ingram: The activity of American coalition forces is a matter for the US Authorities. Our coalition partners are fully aware of their obligations under international law and have procedures in place to address any alleged contraventions.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many United Kingdom military personnel were in Iraq on *(a)* 1 January 2004 and *(b)* 1 January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [4659]

Mr. Ingram: On 1 January 2004 there were some 7,600 UK Service personnel serving in Iraq. On 1 January 2005, the figure was approximately 8,000. Numbers fluctuated throughout the year for a variety of reasons, the primary factor being the deployment of a Divisional Armoured Reserve (initially the One Black Watch Battlegroup) in June 2004.

Nuclear Deterrent

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a decision will be taken on the replacement of Trident; and if he will make a statement. [4845]

John Reid: I have nothing to add to the answer that I gave on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 466W to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Service Personnel (Remuneration)

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* British Army and *(c)* Royal Air Force have resigned citing poor financial remuneration as their principal reason for leaving since 2003. [2664]

Mr. Touhig: Exit Surveys are conducted within the Naval Services and RAF but only a relatively small proportion of those choosing to leave respond. Therefore, the results cannot be seen as representative of their Services as a whole.

Within the Naval Service only the Fleet organisation (some 67 per cent. of total Naval Service) run an Exit Survey. Of the 759 personnel who did respond between October 2003 and July 2004,15 per cent. of Royal Naval and 46 per cent. of the Royal Marines personnel quoted pay as their reason for leaving.

In the RAF in 2002-03, of the 184 Officers who responded, "pay and remuneration" issues ranked sixth in importance out of eight groups of issues for reasons for leaving, with 16 per cent. of respondents ranking them among their top three reasons for leaving. Among airmen and women for the same period, "dissatisfaction with pay" was rated as an important or very important reason for leaving by 39 per cent. of the 723 personnel who responded, placing it 57th factor in the overall list of importance. "Salary outside the RAF", however, was rated as important or very important by 62 per cent., placing it 16 overall.

In 2003-04, the Officers' survey respondents were asked to select their top five reasons for leaving the RAF. Of the 152 respondents replying to this question, two per cent. rated "basic pay" as one of their top five reasons for leaving, ranking it 80th in a list of 98 factors. In the same period, of the 543 Airmen and women who responded to this question, 9 per cent. rated "basic pay" among their top five reasons for leaving, ranking it 18th out of a list of 102 factors.

The Army do not currently run an Exit Survey, however, the possibility of doing so is being considered and it appears likely that they will implement such a survey in the future.

HEALTH

Adult Abuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the establishment of a national data collection system on adult abuse; and if she will make a statement. [2912]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is funding Action on Elder Abuse to carry out a two-year project which will contribute to the development of a national data collection system on adult abuse. A report of findings from the first year of the project will be placed in the Library shortly.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategies

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the implementation of local alcohol harm reduction strategies. [5611]

Caroline Flint: The Department wrote to all primary care trusts in February 2005 to encourage them to adopt local alcohol harm reduction strategies, but no assessment has been made of their implementation as yet. As announced in the Choosing Health White Paper, we are developing a programme of improvements for alcohol treatment services to be launched this autumn.

Alcohol-related Problems

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 were admitted to hospital for alcohol related problems in 2004–05. [4624]

Caroline Flint: The latest data set that is available for people under the age of 18 admitted to hospital for alcohol related problems is for 2003–04. This is shown in the table.

Counts of finished admission episodes where there was a primary diagnosis code or cause code for selected alcohol related diseases. Age at admission between 0–18 years. national health service hospitals, England 2003–04

Primary diagnosis	*Number*
F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	3,934
K70 Alcoholic liver disease	1
T51 Toxic effect of alcohol	712
Cause code	
X45 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	396

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (that is, the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital episode statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Alliance Medical Ltd.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority about the role of Alliance Medical in the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [2252]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority (SHA) contacted the Department in early June following an Alliance Medical Ltd. (AML) site visit in April 2005. The Department is currently discussing the issues raised with AML and the SHA.

Alzheimer's and Dementia

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how her Department plans to ensure that quality affordable medicines will be available to people with *(a)* Alzheimer's and *(b)* dementia. [3803]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently reviewing its 2001 appraisal of Alzheimer's drugs. Until NICE completes this review and issues new guidance, the 2001 guidance remains extant and those using the drugs in question will continue to do so.

NICE is also pursuing an appraisal of non-Alzheimer pharmaceutical treatments. This appraisal has been halted while NICE awaits further information on drug licensing and marketing. NICE will continue to monitor the progress of marketing authorisation on interventions for non-Alzheimer's dementia and will contact consultees and commentators at such time as may be appropriate to resume appraisal.

NICE is also producing a comprehensive guideline on the treatment and care of those with dementia. This will take account of the appraisals being done on drug treatments for dementia. A draft of the guideline will be consulted on in 2006.

Anaesthetic Awareness

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures are used to encourage patients to report anaesthetic awareness; [2375]

(2) how many cases of anaesthetic awareness have been recorded in England in each year since 1997; [2376]

(3) what procedures are used in the NHS to detect anaesthetic awareness; and what routine checks are made in hospitals to prevent its incidence. [2377]

Jane Kennedy: There are currently no procedures to encourage specific reporting of anaesthetic awareness by patients and the Department does not routinely collect information about the number of cases.

However, the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) that we established in July 2001 to improve the safety of national health service patient care by promoting an open and fair culture has in place a national reporting and learning system for adverse events across the NHS. The NPSA is about to start a pilot to encourage patients to report all patient safety incidents, including those involving anaesthetic awareness.

The NPSA has also undertaken a review of the anaesthetic process. This involved taking a "standard patient journey" and working through the whole process, identifying and analysing the risks. The NPSA is now in the process of identifying and prioritising areas

for action and is being assisted in its work by a clinical speciality adviser (CSA) in anaesthetics and an anaesthetic reference group.

The most important contribution to patient safety in this area is the continuous presence of a highly trained and skilled anaesthetist who has the benefit of modern equipment to deliver and monitor the patient's condition. The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, which represents more than 9,000 anaesthetists, has issued "Minimum Standards for Monitoring" in recognition of the importance of monitoring the patient throughout an anaesthetic. The Association also launched its revised guidelines, "Checking Anaesthetic Equipment", in 2004. The guidelines were developed jointly with the Royal College of Anaesthetists and their application by all anaesthetic staff will help to improve patient safety.

Antibiotics

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what the £12 million that has been made available for monitoring the use of antibiotics is being spent. [4593]

Jane Kennedy: As part of the clinical pharmacist initiative, we are providing £12 million over three years to support hospital clinical pharmacists in monitoring the use of antibiotics in relation to local policies. The funding is given to acute trusts via primary care trusts and the acute trusts decide how to use the money. This is frequently used to support a hospital clinical pharmacist.

Antimicrobial Strategy and Action Plan

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Department has to update the June 2000 Antimicrobial Strategy and Action Plan. [4592]

Jane Kennedy: We do not plan to revise the United Kingdom "Antimicrobial Strategy and Action Plan" as the aims and objectives are being taken forward by the Specialist Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Arm's Length Bodies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total budget for arm's-length bodies contained within the Department's review of arm's length bodies is for 2005–06; and what this figure was in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2003–04. [3358]

Jane Kennedy: The recurrent operating costs for the Department's arm's length bodies (ALBs) for the years in question are shown in the table.

	£ million
2003–04	1,842
2004–05	2,063
2005–06	1,780

Notes:
1. 2003–04 costs include 2004–05 costs of the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection and the Commission for Social Care Inspection since these bodies were in start-up mode in 2003–04.
2. 2004–05 costs increased because of taking on of new services, new ALBs and ALBs coming fully on stream.
3. 2005–06 costs do not include £50 million of non-recurrent costs.

Arrhythmia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of arrhythmia were treated by *(a)* the Acute Trust and *(b)* community trusts, including GP services, in Gloucestershire in the last year for which figures are available. [4342]

Mr. Byrne: Information on numbers of arrhythmia cases treated is collected centrally by trust, but not for general practitioner services. Figures for community trusts in Gloucestershire are between one and five and due to reasons of confidentiality have been suppressed. The number of cases of arrhythmia that were treated at Gloucestershire hospitals national health service trust in 2003–04 are shown in the table.

	Number
Finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of arrhythmia, which indicates the patient was attending specifically for treatment of their arrhythmia	93
Finished consultant episodes with an arrhythmia diagnosis code recorded in any of the diagnosis fields—arrhythmia codes might occur in secondary fields if they are being treated as part of an overall cardiology problem	261

Notes:
1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. All Diagnoses count of episodes—these figures represent a count of all FCE's where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics (HES) record.
3. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
4. Secondary diagnoses—as well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002–03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
5. ICD-10 diagnosis codes for arrhythmia are:
147.0 Re-entry ventricular arrhythmia
149.0 Ventricular fibrillation and flutter
149.1 Atrial premature depolarization
149.2 Junctional premature depolarization
149.3 Ventricular premature depolarization
149.4 Other and unspecified premature depolarization
149.5 Sick sinus syndrome
149.8 Other specified cardiac arrhythmias
149.9 Cardiac arrhythmia, unspecified
P29.1 Neonatal cardiac dysrhythmia
6. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed). HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre

Autism

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training is provided to *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* other healthcare professionals in treating and caring for those with autism; and what funding has been allocated for the treatment of autism in the 2005–06 financial year. [3162]

Mr. Byrne: The training of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals in treating and caring for those with autism is a matter for the relevant professional bodies. Overall, in 2004–05, the national health service spent £3.6 billion on training. Information about funding allocations is not held centrally. It is for local NHS organisations to decide how resources should be allocated between services, taking account of local circumstances and priorities.

Barnet Chase Farm Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on activity levels at Barnet Chase Farm hospital in *(a)* the last month and *(b)* each of the last three years. [3252]

Jane Kennedy: The reported activity levels over the last few years for Barnet and Chase Farm hospital are shown in the following table.

	Elective admissions	*Non-elective admissions*
2001–02	32,537	25,873
2002–03	32,720	28,054
2003–04	34,890	29,567
2004–05	34,386	34,192
April 2005	2,861	2,924

These figures are for all general and acute specialties and are sourced from the Department's monthly monitoring returns.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what she expects the capacity of the new surgery unit at Chase Farm hospital to be; when she expects it to be operating at, or near to, that capacity; when she expects it to open; and if she will make a statement. [3269]

Jane Kennedy: North Central London Strategic Health Authority have advised that the surgicentre will have a capacity of 3000 cases a year and anticipates it to be operational later this month.

The surgicentre will include orthopaedic in-patient services, general day cases, and endoscopies. It will provide an elective service, which will not be affected by emergency activity.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the financial position of Barnet Chase Farm Hospital Trust. [3271]

Jane Kennedy: Subject to the process of audit and final accounts, the trust broke even in 2004–05. It has yet to agree a financial plan for 2005–06, which would enable it to achieve a balanced position. North London Strategic Health Authority is working closely with Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals National Health Service Trust and its primary care trusts to achieve that end.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on standards of cleaning at Barnet hospital. [3267]

Jane Kennedy: As part of the patient environment action team's inspection programme Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals National Health Service Trust was assessed in 2005 as acceptable—from a five-point scale which runs through excellent, good, acceptable, poor or unacceptable.

British Nutrition Foundation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role the British Nutrition Foundation has in advising her Department on food and nutrition policy. [2797]

Caroline Flint: The British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) are members of the nutrition forum which was set up in 2002 to bring key stakeholders in nutrition together. The forum aimed to allow an exchange of views, build stakeholder relationships and assist the Food Standards Agency and United Kingdom health Departments in the development and implementation of nutrition policies.

The Government obtains its scientific advice on nutrition and health from an independent expert advisory committee, the scientific advisory committee on nutrition.

Cardiac Care

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses there are in Gloucestershire who deal with *(a)* coronary heart disease and *(b)* arrhythmia in young people. [4344]

Mr. Byrne: Information on numbers of specialist nurses dealing with coronary heart disease and arrhythmia for young people is not collected.

Childhood Obesity

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in England were obese *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [1737]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* The available information is shown in the following table. Although figures are requested for the United Kingdom, the Department only holds figures for England. These are taken from the results of the Health Survey for England for 1997 and 2003, the latest year for which figures are available.

Obesity prevalence and population estimates in English children aged two to 15 in 1997 and 2003

Aged two to 15 with a valid body mass index (BMI) measurement

	Year	
BMI status	*1997*	*2003*
Percentage obese	12.6	16.6
Number of children surveyed	2,854	2,833
Surveys estimates represented as a number of the total population		
Number obese (million)	1.1	1.4

Note:
UK national BMI percentile classification used to classify obesity in children. Population figures used are 2001 census based resident population estimates. As figures are derived from a random sample of less than 3,000 children in each of 1997 and 2003, they may be subject to some sampling error and should therefore be treated with caution.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2003.

Chronic Liver Disease

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the success rate in recent trials of using patients' own stem cells to treat chronic liver disease. [3389]

Jane Kennedy: The Department awaits the results of these research trials using patients' own stem cells to treat chronic liver disease with interest. As with all research, until the experimental analysis is completed, subjected to peer review and replicated by other researchers, it would be wrong to speculate on the potential clinical implications for patients.

Civil Servants

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3808]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has produced guidance notes for managers and staff on religious add cultural awareness and a brief guide to world religions following the introduction of the Employment Equality (Religion and Belief) Regulations. These notes will be supplemented by further training later this year, when the Department's new diversity package is launched. This package will include a specific module on faith and belief.

Community Hospitals

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what facilities are planned to be provided by *(a)* new and *(b)* existing community hospitals; [3403]

(2) whether newly-built community hospitals will provide inpatient facilities; [3404]

(3) whether she plans that existing community hospitals should continue to provide inpatient beds. [3405]

Mr. Byrne: We are currently considering the range of services that could be offered by the new generation of community hospitals promised in the Labour manifesto. Decisions on exactly which services will be provided by each new community hospital will be made, in full consultation with the public and health professionals locally.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her Department's plans are for the expansion of community hospitals over the next five years; [4401]

(2) what funding has been allocated centrally for the expansion of community hospitals over the next five years. [4403]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is in the early stages of planning for the expansion of community hospitals and the exact amount of central funding to be made available will be determined at a later stage.

Continuing Care (Coventry)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Coventry South are receiving NHS fully-funded continuing care. [3802]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Correspondence

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the requirements are for NHS health trusts and hospitals to include both a telephone number and an email address on all communications. [1861]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* The NHS identity guidance, is available on the nhs.uk website at www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk, published in 2000, gives examples of stationery layouts which explicitly include telephone numbers and email addresses. Reinforcing this, the toolkit for producing patient information (2003), also to be found on the identity website, includes in its checklists a reminder that contact information should be considered.

It is for national health service organisations to decide how contact information should be presented, within the bounds of the identity guidance, depending on the needs of their patients or service users and the circumstances of the particular communication.

Direct Payments (Disabled People)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with disabilities use direct payments. [4642]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the table.

England—1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004

	Direct payments		
	All ages	*18 to 64*	*65 and over*
Physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment	14,000	8,900	5,400
Learning disability	1,900	1,800	—

Note:
These figures are estimates based on the figures from 144 of the 150 councils. Figures do not sum due to rounding.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been made available for research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy in each year since 1997 from *(a)* the Medical Research Council, *(b)* the Department of Health's research and development budget and *(c)* other sources; what research funding she plans to provide for research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy in the coming years; and if she will make a statement. [3449]

Mr. Byrne: Medical Research Council (MRC) spend on research relevant to Duchenne muscular dystrophy since 1997 is shown in the following table.

£ million

	Spend
1997–98	0.5
1998–99	0.53
1999–2000	0.59
2000–01	1.13
2001–02	2
2002–03	1.8
2003–04	2.4

Much of the muscular dystrophy research supported by the MRC is on-going.

The main part of the Department's expenditure on health research is allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS, including a number concerned with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

In 2004, the Department announced £1.6 million funding, from the Genetics White Paper, for a four year project which aims to address the cause of muscular dystrophy.

Fraud

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether the creation of the Legal Protection Unit of the Counter Fraud and Security Management Services has increased the rate of detection and prosecution of offences of assault against healthcare workers during their hours of work. [4348]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* Work is currently being undertaken on the collation and validation of the number of successful prosecutions obtained in 2004–05 against those who have physically assaulted NHS staff. Once the figures have been fully checked it is planned to release these shortly.

General Practitioners (Hornsey and Wood Green)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS general practitioners have been employed in each of the last five years in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency; and if she will make a statement. [4614]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for all general practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars, for Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust for 2001 to December 2004 are shown in the table.

All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1], for Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust, 2001 to December 2004

Estimated full-time equivalents

	Q05 North Central London	*5C9 Haringey Teaching PCT*
2000	757	[2]—
2001	752	142
2002	768	141
2003	803	138
2004	800	140
December 2004	745	134

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004, this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

[2] Data not applicable.

Notes:
1. Data as at 30 September 2000–2004 and 31 December 2004.
2. Full time equivalent (FTE) data has been estimated using the results from the 1992–93 GMP Workload Survey For 1994 to 2003: contracted GPs—Full time = 1.00 fte; three quarter time = 0.69 fte; job share = 0.65 fte; and half time = 0.60 fte; other GP types Full time = 1.0 fte.
For 2004: All GPs—Full time 1.0 fte; part time = 0.6 fte, and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years.
FTE GP Retainers have been estimated using a factor of 0.12 per session for 1994–2004.

Source:
National Health Service Health and Social Care Information Centre GMS and PMS statistics.

GPs (Out of Hours)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many out-of-hours general practitioners there are per thousand of the population in *(a)* the area covered by Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth Primary Care Trust, *(b)* the Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority and *(c)* England. [3319]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not collected by the Department. However, information may be available from the primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority.

The Department is supporting out-of-hours services through greatly increased funding which have been allocated directly to PCTs which commission out-of-hours services. Some £316 million was allocated in 2004–05 to help fund PCT provision of out-of-hours services. In addition, PCTs also using their unified budgets—increased by £12.7 from £45 billion in 2003–04 to £53.9 billion in 2005–06—to establish integrated networks of urgent care provision.

Health Bodies

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of staff of the Healthcare Commission are on zero-hour contracts. [4666]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* I understand from the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission that it employs 34 locum inspectors on zero-hour contracts.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed by the *(a)* Healthcare Commission and *(b)* Mental Health Act Commission expressed as (i) headcount and (ii) full-time equivalent. [4667]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* I understand from the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission that as at 31 May the Commission had a staff of 744 (708 whole time equivalents).

I also understand from the Chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission that as at 31 May the Commission employed 42 staff (42 whole time equivalents) at its headquarters in Nottingham. This includes two executive board appointments, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance. The Mental Health Act Commission is also responsible for the appointment of Second Opinion Appointed Doctors to carry out functions under Section 58 of the Mental Health Act 1983: currently there are 150 such appointees. Additionally, there are 102 Commissioners

who are public appointees appointed under Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments rules by the NHS Appointments Commission to carry out the Commission's visiting function on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Healthcare Commission/ Commission for Social Care Inspection

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on merging the Healthcare Commission with the Commission for Social Care Inspection; whether this merger will require primary legislation; when she expects this merger to be completed; and if she will make a statement. [3356]

Jane Kennedy: The approach to and time scale for the merger is being determined, in the context of the wider review of regulation in social care and health, as announced in the Chancellor's Budget statement on 16 March.

Merging the two Commissions will require primary legislation.

The Chancellor announced on 16 March that plans would be developed to achieve a merger by 2008.

Hepatitis C

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department has given to local authorities to assist them in monitoring tattoo and piercing parlours to prevent infections, with particular reference to hepatitis C. [4396]

Caroline Flint: In February 2004 the Department published "Regulation of Cosmetic Piercing and Skin-Colouring Businesses", guidance for local authorities on section 120 of the Local Government Act 2003. The guidance explains the provisions in section 120 and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2003, which amend section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1982, and came into force on 1 April 2004.

The new provisions give local authorities in England (outside London) and in Wales, specific powers relating to persons carrying on businesses of cosmetic piercing, that is, piercing of the body including the ear, and semi-permanent skin-colouring, including micropigmentation, semi-permanent make-up and temporary tattooing. Local authorities will be able to require such businesses: to register themselves and their premises; and to observe byelaws relating to the cleanliness and hygiene of premises, practitioners and equipment.

London local authorities already have such powers under private legislation (London Local Authorities Act 1991 and the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1981).

These measures are intended to increase health protection and reduce the risk of transmission of blood-borne virus infections such as HIV and hepatitis B and C and other infections. The publication also contains model byelaws that local authorities may wish to adopt in their area to facilitate consistency of enforcement. It also makes reference to the Health and Safety Executive/ Local Authorities Enforcement Liaison Committee, Local Authority Circular 76/2: Enforcement of skin piercing activities (October 2001). This contains comprehensive guidance on issues such as infection control, waste disposal and aftercare advice.

Before the new provisions were introduced by the Local Government Act 2003, local authorities had powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1982 to regulate ear piercing, tattooing, acupuncture and electrolysis by requiring registration and observance of byelaws.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reason was for the decision not to pay the same level of compensation to the widows and dependants of those who have died from hepatitis C contracted from contaminated blood products administered under the NHS the same level of compensation paid to widows and dependants of those who have died from HIV/ AIDS contracted similarly. [3394]

Caroline Flint: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health (Melanie Johnson) gave on 22 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 742W.

Hospital-acquired Infections

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) at what intervals hospital trusts are required to provide her Department with details of cases of clostridium difficile; [5038]

(2) whether hospital trusts are required to report cases of clostridium difficile to the strategic health authority. [5039]

Jane Kennedy: As part of the mandatory surveillance scheme, hospital trusts are required to provide the Health Protection Agency with information on "Clostridium difficile" quarterly. They are not required to routinely report cases to the strategic health authority.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of supermarket kits designed to counter hospital-based infections. [3891]

Jane Kennedy: Healthcare workers should be trained in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and in the performance of clinical procedures to keep down the risk of infection. Consequently, these kits are unnecessary and patients do not need to take their own PPE into hospital.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish the data collected under the mandatory surveillance scheme for *(a) clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea, *(b)* glycopoptide resistant enterocci and *(c)* orthopaedic surgical site infection; and whether this data will be published for intervals of six months. [3363]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 104–05W.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the incidence of MRSA at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals. [3272]

Jane Kennedy: There were 60 meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia reports for Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals National Health Service Trust for the period April 2004 to September 2004. The MRSA rate per 1000 bed-days were 0.35.

London Ambulance Service

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the arrangements will be for patient involvement in the London Ambulance Service after the existing patients forum is abolished. [3304]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The London Ambulance Service (LAS) national health service trust is fully committed to working with patients and their representatives and will continue to develop an effective relationship with them in order to improve further the quality of patient care delivered throughout London.

It is the Government's intention to focus patient forum activity at the primary care trust (PCT) level but with arrangements in place to ensure the whole "patients' journey" is covered by forum activity. In the context of the London Ambulance Service NHS trust, it is envisaged that all London PCT forums would work together to ensure that ambulance services are monitored and reviewed effectively from the patient perspective. It will be for the forums themselves to decide how best to achieve a comprehensive and robust arrangement, but one approach might be for each PCT forum to nominate one of its number to form a pan-London specialist ambulance review panel. Such an arrangement would mean that there was strong input from across the city with a membership of 29, with each London locality having a real chance to input into the LAS at both strategic and operational levels.

Multiple Sclerosis

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will commission trials into the use of low-dose naltrexone for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. [3296]

Mr. Byrne: The main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

The MRC does not normally allocate funds to particular topics. Research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. When appropriate, high quality research in particular areas of strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds, but research excellence and importance to health continues to be the primary considerations in funding decisions. The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding.

National Service Framework for Older People

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the implementation of the National Service Framework for Older People milestone for *(a)* annual medicine reviews for all people over 75 years and *(b)* six-monthly medicine reviews for people over 75 years taking four or more medicines; [2917]

(2) what estimate she has made of the proportion of the population aged over 75 years being treated with four or more prescribed medicines at one time in the last period for which figures are available. [2918]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not collect centrally the data requested.

Strategic health authorities, as part of their performance management role, must ensure that primary care trusts within their areas are providing quality services to their patients. This includes delivering the milestones in national service frameworks.

The national medicines management collaborative use medication reviews as measures for assessing improvements in patient care. They have monitored medication reviews for older people undertaken through general practitioner surgeries and also within care homes. Historic data for both measures, collected from the 146 PCTs taking part in the programme, suggest that there have been significant and sustained improvements in the number and quality of medication reviews.

National Service Standards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on national standards for *(a)* prosthetic, *(b)* orthotic and *(c)* wheelchair services. [3070]

Jane Kennedy: These services are provided on a basis of clinical need and managed by the primary care trusts.

NHS Business Services Authority

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* overall budget and *(b)* budget for each constituent body is for the NHS Business Services Authority; whether there will be any reduction in staff numbers from the Dental Practice Board following the merger into the NHS Business Services Authority; and what estimate her Department has made of the transfer costs of the merger. [3281]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) will constitute the Dental Practice Board, the Prescription Pricing Authority and the NHS Pensions Agency. It has yet to be finalised if the Counter Fraud and Security Management Services (CFSMS) will form part of the BSA.

It is anticipated that the BSA will commence operations on 1 April 2006. The Chairman and Chief Executive have yet to be appointed and until they are in place, detailed business plans cannot be agreed.

The baseline budget for the BSA in 2006–07 is £120.7 million, which is based on the collective budgets for the BSA old component parts. In accordance with the review of Arm's Length Bodies announced in 2004, the BSA will be expected to make a saving of £25 million on this figure in its second year. Budgets will not be set for the BSA's old constituent parts.

Over time, the BSA expects to reduce the total number of posts by 25 per cent., compared to today. Where these posts will be reduced has not yet been determined as the business strategies are being formulated.

The transfer costs of the merger will depend largely on the extent to which the BSA is restructured. Options are still under evaluation and it is therefore not possible to calculate likely transfer costs.

NHS Fraud

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses to the Department's consultation on access to relevant documents, records and data to counter NHS fraud raised concerns that the pre-consultation process would impact adversely on patient confidentiality; how many responses there were in total; and if she will make a statement. [3436]

Jane Kennedy: Maintaining patient confidentiality is vitally important and the consultation sought views on the proposed safeguards that should be in place to ensure confidentiality is protected. Consequently, a number of responses commented on the importance of the proposed safeguards. These include a new criminal offence in the unlikely event that information obtained through these powers is wrongly disclosed. However, of the 47 responses only 11 responses specifically addressed the issue of patient confidentiality regardless of any proposed safeguards. The 47 responses showed overwhelming support for the proposed measures.

Obesity

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to encourage people suffering from obesity to lose weight, with particular reference to those in disadvantaged areas. [3899]

Caroline Flint: Better services to help people, including those in disadvantaged areas, to lose weight and then maintain a more healthy weight are among the key issues covered in the Government White Paper "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier". Specific action includes an obesity awareness campaign, the development of a comprehensive care pathway and a weight loss guide.

Panton-Valentine Leukocidin

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department commissioned into the presence and spread of the strains of staphylococcus aureus with Panton-Valentine Leukocidin. [3387]

Jane Kennedy: No research has been commissioned into the prevalence of Panton-Valentine Leukocidin producing "Staphylococcus aureus". However, the Department is investigating the feasibility of a survey to establish the prevalence of community acquired staphylococcal infections, expected to provide evidence on the prevalence of "Staphylococcus aureus" with Panton-Valentine Leukocidin.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to make medical practitioners aware of the symptoms of infections with staphylococcus aureus with Panton-Valentine Leukocidin. [3388]

Jane Kennedy: The Health Protection Agency has already published a number of articles alerting healthcare professionals to these infections and the Chief Medical Officer will be issuing guidance to raise awareness and promote good practice.

Pedicabs/Rickshaws

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated in hospital for injuries resulting from accidents which occurred while they were passengers in pedicabs and rickshaws in the last period for which figures are available. [3191]

Caroline Flint: The specific information requested is not collected centrally. There is data on people admitted as hospital in-patients but we are not able to identify accidents to passengers of pedicabs and rickshaws as a separate group.

Race Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3537]

Jane Kennedy: The Department ran mandatory valuing diversity training sessions for all staff in 2002 and 2003. This training included information about the Race Relations (Amendment) Act. The Department is currently developing further training on diversity that will be launched later this year, and which all staff will be expected to complete. This training will include a specific module on race relations.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of her Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3538]

Jane Kennedy: The Department published its new three-year race equality scheme on 27 May 2005, which is available on the Department's website[1]. This sets out how the Department and its Executive Agencies, NHS Connecting for Health, NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, intend to meet their obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. Monitoring reports on the implementation of this Scheme will be made to the Departmental Management Board and Corporate Management Committee on at least a six monthly basis.

[1] www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EqualityAndHumanRights/EqualityAndHumanRightsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4106482&chk+6BMT/s.

Repeat Prescriptions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to make the Quality and Outcomes Framework indicator for medication reviews for repeat prescriptions available to *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* the public; [2914]

(2) whether the Healthcare Commission has responsibility for measuring compliance with the quality and outcomes framework indicator for medication reviews for repeat prescriptions; and if she will make a statement. [2916]

Jane Kennedy: All of the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) indicators are publicly available in the general medical service statement of financial entitlement 2004–05; a copy of which is available in the Library. The data on achievement against the QOF indicator set for 2004–05 will be published in August 2005 by the health and social care information centre (HSCIC).

The Healthcare Commission has responsibility for the performance of primary care trusts (PCTs). The Healthcare Commission does not have responsibility for measuring the compliance with the QOF indicators. PCTs assess compliance by participating practices with the QOF indicators.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she has issued to NHS organisations on the length of cycles for which repeat prescriptions should operate. [3412]

Jane Kennedy: Guidance on the length of national health service prescriptions was issued by the National Prescribing Centre in issue 20 of its quarterly newsletter, *Connect*, in March 2000. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Rheumatology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of rheumatologists are unable to prescribe anti-TNFa therapy to rheumatoid patients they identify as being suitable for such treatment in accordance with National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidelines. [3438]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of rheumatologists are unable to prescribe anti-TNFa treatments for *(a)* psoriatic arthritis and *(b)* ankylosing spondylitis in accordance with guidelines set by the British Society for Rheumatology. [3439]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally.

South Birmingham Hospital

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by how much the contract price for the new South Birmingham Hospital has changed since the initial budgets. [3788]

Mr. Byrne: This is a matter for the Chair of the University Hospital Birmingham National Health Service Foundation Trust. I have written to Mr. John Charlton informing him of your enquiry.

UK Doctors (Developing Countries)

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors who trained in the UK are working in developing countries. [3657]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Water (Bacterial Contamination)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the frequency and level of bacterial contamination found in *(a)* bottled and *(b)* tap water; and what assessment she has made of the health implications therefrom. [4480]

Mr. Morley: I have been asked to reply.

Spring and bottled drinking water must comply with similar microbiological safety standards to those for the public water supply in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (England) 2000. These parameters are specified in the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations 1999 (as amended). The Food Standards Agency is aware of two withdrawals of bottled water on the grounds of bacterial contamination since 2000.

Water companies in England and Wales have to monitor for specific microbiological parameters at the frequencies and points set out in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 in England and 2001 in Wales. These parameters are total coliform bacteria, *E.coli*, Enterococci and *Clostridium perfringens*. The presence of these organisms indicates potential bacterial contamination of the water supply and the possible presence of other pathogens. If any of these organisms is detected, water companies are required to investigate the source of the potential contamination and take appropriate action to protect public health. Monitoring results are included in the annual reports to the Secretary of State by the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water, available in the House of Commons Library. Recent reports for the years 1999–2003 are also available on the Drinking Water Inspectorate website (www.dwi.gov.uk).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Airline Failure (Repatriation Arrangements)

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department have in place for repatriating UK citizens stranded abroad in the event of a major scheduled airline failure. [4591]

Dr. Howells: British embassies, consulates and high commissions overseas have up-to-date plans for helping British citizens affected by all types of consular emergency. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office strongly recommend that UK citizens travelling abroad take out comprehensive travel insurance.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Darling) is currently considering the issue of financial protection for air travellers, including the possibility of extending statutory protection to all UK-originating flights.

Azerbaijan

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations

his Department has made to the Government of Azerbaijan regarding the arrest and detention of Mrs. Almas Guliyeva. [4229]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We have been closely involved in the case of Mrs. Guliyeva since her arrest and detention earlier this month. Staff from our embassy in Baku have been in contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Customs Committee, the police and Mrs. Guliyeva's lawyer. In addition, on 13 June our ambassador sought clarification from the Deputy Foreign Minister on whether the Azeri authorities intend to charge Mrs. Guliyeva. We await the authorities' response.

Shortly after she was detained, Mrs. Guliyeva fell ill, and has been hospitalised. consular staff from our embassy visited her both immediately after her detention and in hospital.

Diego Garcia (Terrorist Suspects)

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the status of terrorist suspects held on military bases in Diego Garcia. [4827]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The US authorities have repeatedly given us assurances that no terrorist suspects are being held on Diego Garcia, or have at any time passed in transit through Diego Garcia or its territorial waters. The British representative on Diego Garcia has confirmed this to be the case.

European Armaments Agency

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his policy that the creation of a European Armaments Agency, as proposed in the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, could be agreed without ratification of the Treaty. [4892]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The European Defence Agency was established in June 2004, following unanimous agreement by EU Heads of State and Government. The Government agreed with this decision as the European Defence Agency could be established under the current Treaty provisions, and we believed that the Agency would make a real contribution to enhancing the effectiveness of EU member states' military capabilities.

Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress in the search for Bosnian war-crime suspects, with particular reference to *(a)* Radovan Karadzic and *(b)* General Ratko Mladic. [4050]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We welcome recent progress in the search for fugitive war crimes suspects. In the last six months, 17 Bosnian Serb or Serbian indictees have been transferred to The Hague by the Governments of Serbia and of the Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina—there are now only 10 remaining fugitives. These include Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, who remain at large 10 years after the Srebrenica massacre, for which they are held most responsible.

The Chief Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, in her most recent report to the United Nations Security Council, has commended the improvement in co-operation from the authorities in Belgrade and Banja Luka, who have re-iterated their commitment to full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. But the policy of encouraging voluntary surrenders, which they have pursued to date, appears to have reached it limits.

The UK, together with the international community, therefore continues to press for the transfer of all outstanding fugitive indictees, notably Karadzic and Mladic, as well as Gotovina, to The Hague. If they are unwilling to surrender voluntarily, the countries of the region should locate and arrest them.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress in the search for the Croation war-crimes suspect General Ante Gotovina. [4051]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The latest report of the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)—Carla del Ponte—the United Nations Security Council makes clear there are still serious deficiencies in Croatian efforts to locate and detain fugitive indictee Ante Gotovina. The report notes some positive developments, such as the adoption by the Croatian authorities of an Action Plan to improve co-operation, but reaffirms that Croatia cannot be said to be co-operating fully until Gotovina is in The Hague, or until the provision of information leading to his location and arrest.

The UK fully supports the Chief Prosecutor's assessment and continues to press for the transfer of all remaining fugitive indictees, in particular Karadzic, Mladic and Gotovina, to The Hague.

Hamas

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what instructions he has given his diplomatic representatives in relation to contacts with Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [3511]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* In February my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary authorised working-level contacts in the normal course of business with Hamas elected representatives not directly implicated in violence. The Government will not have any contacts with the leadership of Hamas until they have dropped their commitment to the destruction of Israel and given up violence as a legitimate tool.

There have been two such meetings. One with the Mayor of Deir al-Balah on 7 March and the other with the Mayor of Qalqilya on 2 June. In both meetings British officials made clear HMG's demand that Hamas renounce violence and recognise Israel's right to exist. They also discussed the municipality services and budget and the political, economic and humanitarian

situation with both mayors. No decisions were taken at either of these meetings, nor were there specific "outcomes". No further such meetings are planned.

Hepatitis C

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department gives to those travelling overseas about the dangers of contracting *(a)* hepatitis C and *(b)* other infections from tattooing. [4397]

Dr. Howells: We do not provide specialist advice. However, as a part of its "Know Before You Go" travel safety campaign and through its Travel Advice service, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers general health-related advice and tips to British travellers going overseas. For example, the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk) carries a reference to the risks associated with tattooing in relation to HIV and AIDS.

The FCO website carries a link to the Department of Health website for more detailed information on health issues.

India

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to *(a)* the Indian Government and *(b)* the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh concerning the recent murders of Pastor Isaac Raju and Pastor K Daniel. [4697]

Dr. Howells: We have no plans to raise these, individual cases involving Indian citizens, with the Government of India. However we do engage with India on the wider issues raised by these cases in the course of our bilateral relationship.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to *(a)* the Indian Government and *(b)* the Chief Minister of Gujarat concerning the continuing activities of militant Hindu groups in (i) Andhra Pradesh state and (ii) India. [4698]

Dr. Howells: We have no current plans to make representations to the Indian Government or the Government of Gujarat about the continuing activities of alleged militant Hindu groups in India. But we do raise regularly, at various levels, the issues of political and religious freedom with the Government of India.

The Government had a policy of non-engagement with the Government of Gujarat, including Chief Minister Modi, since the atrocities of 2002 because of our strong concerns over what was the worst outbreak of religious related violence in India for over 10 years.

Iraq

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to conduct an inquiry into the Iraqi Oil for Food programme, with specific reference to British involvement. [5269]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 29W and to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's response to the Foreign Affairs Committee's 6th report on Foreign Policy Aspects of the War against Terrorism, presented to Parliament on 8 June 2005, paragraph 5, page 5. The report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/Cm6590.pdf

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Volcker investigations; and if he will make a statement. [5270]

Dr. Howells: The Government support fully the work of the Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) investigating the allegations of corruption surrounding the UN's Iraq Oil for Food Programme. There have been no ministerial representations to the Independent Inquiry Committee. However, UK Government officials are in frequent contact with IIC staff regarding their investigations.

Israel

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Israel regarding the future of the Separation Wall. [4264]

Dr. Howells: Most recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised his concerns about the route of the barrier with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom during his visit to Israel on 7 June 2005. The Foreign Secretary reiterated this Government's position that, while we fully recognise Israel's right to self-defence, we believe that the barrier should be built either on or behind the Green Line.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on *(a)* the Israeli separation wall, *(b)* Israel's plans to build houses in the E1 corridor and *(c)* Israeli plans for Al-Bustan in the Silwan Valley. [4861]

Dr. Howells: The UK fully recognises Israel's right to self-defence, and agrees that a barrier is a reasonable way to achieve this. But the barrier's route should be on or behind the Green Line, and not on occupied territory. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated our position on this to Israeli Foreign Minister Shalom during his visit to Israel on 7 June.

Settlements are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace. We oppose Israeli Government plans to build 3,500 housing units in E1—an area between Jerusalem and the settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim. The Israeli Government says there is no prospect of the plan being implemented soon. But its implementation would effectively split the West Bank in two. The Foreign Secretary also raised this Government's concerns over the impact of continued settlement activity with Israeli Prime Minster Sharon during his recent visit to Israel.

We were disturbed to hear reports of plans by Israel to demolish 88 homes in Silwan in East Jerusalem and we raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities. We are encouraged to hear that there is now no intention to issue orders to demolish these homes.

Middle East

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts from *(a)* the US, *(b)* Russia and *(c)* the EU regarding the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement. [4860]

Dr. Howells: We are in regular contact at all levels with EU partners and members of the Quartet, as well as the parties, to seek to move the Middle East peace process (MEPP) forward.

Quartet members met at Ministerial level in Moscow on 9 May. We believe it remains crucial that the Quartet plays a central role on the MEPP. As presidency of the EU from July, we shall represent the EU on the Quartet, and shall do whatever we can to use that opportunity to seek progress towards the goal of a negotiated, two-state solution.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the Middle East peace process. [4884]

Dr. Howells: There have been positive steps on the Middle East peace process since the beginning of the year. Progress includes renewed high level contact between the parties and a dramatic fall in the level of violence and number of casualties. However, the situation remains fragile.

The UK remains energetically engaged. It is important that the momentum of progress is maintained. US Security co-ordinator General Ward and the Quartet's disengagement representative Jim Wolfensohn are leading work on security, and economic and governance issues, respectively. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited the region on 7–8 June to offer UK support for both sides and for General Ward and Mr. Wolfensohn, and to encourage the parties to do all they can to take advantage of the opportunities for progress.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings (i) he and (ii) his staff have had with (A) Israeli and (B) Palestinian representatives. [4897]

Dr. Howells: We have regular meetings and discussions with both Israeli and Palestinian representatives at all levels. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Israel and Palestine on 7–8 June. The Foreign Secretary had a range of meetings, including with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Foreign Minister Shalom, and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala) and Foreign Minister Nasser Al Qidwa, as well as US security co-ordinator General Ward and Quartet co-ordinator for disengagement Jim Wolfensohn.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to host another conference in London on the Middle East peace process. [4988]

Dr. Howells: We have no immediate plans to host another conference in London on the Middle East peace process. We continue to work with partners to ensure that progress on follow-up work to the London Meeting of 1 March is maintained. We also support Israeli disengagement from Gaza and part of the West Bank as an important step towards reviving the momentum of the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian Authority

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Palestinian Authority on its decision to re-introduce the death penalty. [5047]

Dr. Howells: The continued passing of the death sentence by the Palestinian Authority is a matter of concern. On 13 June 2005, four convicted murderers were executed by the Palestinian Authority in Gaza. The UK has repeatedly raised its concerns with the Palestinian Authority and will raise its concerns about these recent executions. Dutch diplomats (as local EU Presidency) have already made representations to the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 13 June 2005 executions. We also plan to raise this bilaterally with the Palestinian Authority at the earliest opportunity.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [4937]

Mr. Straw: The following numbers of awards were made to officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the Birthday 2005 Honours List.

Award	*Number*
KCMG	1
CMC	5
QBE	6
MBE	13 (including four locally engaged staff overseas)

In addition, four members of the British Council received honours (two OBEs and two MBEs).

Russia

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Russian authorities about the auction of Yuganskneftegaz. [4654]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Russia has made important progress along the path of economic and democratic reforms since the break-up of the Soviet Union. But it is clear that its handling of the Yukos affair raises important questions about the rule of law with implications for business and foreign investors alike. We have, through regular Ministerial as well as Embassy contacts with the Russian Government, made clear our concerns in this respect. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also discussed the present state of Russia and its future development when he met President Putin in Moscow on 13 June.

We welcome President Putin's words in his address to the Russian Parliament on 25 April when he said that the tax authorities had no rights to terrorise business.

We continue to make clear the importance to investors of an environment in which they can do business and where their legal and property rights are protected.

Ukraine

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of changes in the *(a)* economy, *(b)* constitution and *(c)* media in Ukraine since Viktor Yushchenko became President. [5045]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: With only four months elapsed since the new government under President Viktor Yushchenko took office it is early days and much work is still in progress. On the economy, positive steps have been taken to tackle corruption and to simplify the tax system. Progress is also being made to meet the conditions needed to secure Market Economy Status from the EU and to accede to the World Trade Organisation. However, uncertainty remains over the review of past privatisations and there are questions over the longer-term affordability of recent increases in pensions and civil service salaries. The constitutional reforms to increase the powers of the Parliament and Prime Minister in relation to the President are likely to come into force in either September this year or January 2006. The Ukrainian Government is also making progress in entrenching the new freedoms that the media has enjoyed since the Orange Revolution and in investigating the case of the murdered journalist, Hearhiy Gongadze. We look to the Ukrainian Government to maintain the momentum in order both to deliver sustainable growth and prosperity and to take Ukraine closer to the EU.

Visa Cases

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the visa of Knanittha Srihonthaen will be approved. [4793]

Dr. Howells: I regret that I cannot provide my hon. Friend with this information as it is not our practice to disclose details of individual entry clearance cases in a public forum. My hon. Friend should write to UKvisas at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for further information on this application.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Access to Information (Cross-border)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when a code of practice on access to information held by cross border implementation bodies is expected to be adopted. [4392]

Angela E. Smith: A draft Code of Practice on Freedom of Information for North South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd. is expected to be available for public consultation before the end of this month. The Code will come into formal operation after the consultation process has been completed and formal approval obtained from the North South Ministerial Council.

Dogs Order

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the review of the Dogs Order *(a)* began and *(b)* ended; how many meetings of the review group were held; and who the members of the review group were. [4388]

Angela E. Smith: The review of the Dogs Order commenced in February 2000 by the issue of a consultation letter to district councils and the USPCA seeking their views on amendments to the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983. No review group was established.

Work on reviewing the responses received was suspended in February 2001 following the foot and mouth disease outbreak, and subsequently it has not been possible to take this work forward. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development does recognise that a review of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 is still required and it is planned to carry out this review as soon as other pressures and commitments allow.

Economic Growth

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the growth of the Northern Ireland economy in 2004; and what his estimate is for 2005. [4081]

Angela E. Smith: The latest available figures for Gross Value Added (GVA) relate to 2003 and these show that over the year, the Northern Ireland economy grew by an estimated 6.0 per cent. in nominal terms. This is higher than the UK average of 5 per cent. for the same period, with only the East Midlands showing a higher level of growth.

Government does not produce forecasts for regional economic growth.

Education and Library Board Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what efficiency savings he expects education and library boards in Northern Ireland to make in the 2005–06 financial year. [3570]

Angela E. Smith: In the 2005–06 financial year the NI Education and Library Boards have been asked to realise resource releasing efficiency gains of at least £3.5 million on Centre costs and a further £4.8 million on ear-marked initiative funding for reinvestment in front-line services. The Board Centre gains relate to improved procurement practices, improvements in Home to School Transport arrangements and reductions in teacher absenteeism. The gains on ear-marked initiatives will be made in relation to the School Improvement Programme.

Boards will also be expected to realise non-resource releasing efficiency gains of £20.1 million principally in relation to teaching, learning and administrative services, following recent investment in information and communications technology through the Classroom 2000 project.

Electricity Prices

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what use has been made of the expenditure allocated in September 2003 to bring about a 10 per cent. reduction in electricity prices to business in Northern Ireland. [4080]

Angela E. Smith: The expenditure allocated in September 2003 was aimed at delivering a Government proposal to reduce electricity prices for business. It has not been possible to implement this because of EU state aid difficulties which the Department is still seeking to resolve.

As an interim measure, £8.8 million of the available funding has been allocated to assist with energy efficiency measures. This will have the effect of an average 1.5 per cent. reduction in electricity tariffs for all customers in the 2005–06 tariff year. It will also enable Northern Ireland Electricity to constrain tariff increases for 2005–06 to an average of 3.9 per cent. for all customers and to an average of 4.9 per cent. for business customers.

Employment (Public and Private Sectors)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of employee jobs in Northern Ireland in *(a)* the private sector, *(b)* the public sector and *(c)* in total at 31 March of each year from 1998. [4083]

Angela E. Smith: Estimates of the number of employee jobs in the private sector, the public sector and in total in Northern Ireland at the first Monday in March in each year 1998 to 2005 are detailed in the following table.

Employee jobs[1] in private sector, public sector and total employee jobs

	(a) Private sector jobs	*(b) Public sector jobs*	*(c) Total employee jobs*
March 1998	413,430	195,680	609,110
March 1999	424,520	196,350	620,870
March 2000	438,130	199,340	637,470
March 2001	446,720	202,180	648,900
March 2002	455,930	205,110	661,040
March 2003	458,080	210,850	668,930
March 2004	461,880	216,430	678,310
March 2005[2]	470,730	220,430	691,160

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10
[2] Provisional
Note:
Figures are not seasonally adjusted
Source:
Quarterly Employment Survey, DETI

Governance Systems (Higher Education)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what plans he has to review the size and composition of boards of governors at further and higher education colleges in Northern Ireland; [3478]

(2) what plans he has to review systems of governance at further education colleges in Northern Ireland. [3480]

Angela E. Smith: The recent review of the strategy for further education recommended fewer but larger management units in colleges of further and higher education with a resultant reduction in the number of governing bodies to match the number of new colleges. As part of this process the Department will review the size and constitution of governing bodies.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the adequacy of systems of university governance within Northern Ireland. [3482]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Employment and Learning obtains assurance on the adequacy of the university governance within Northern Ireland through the involvement of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Assurance Service and the adoption of their assurance regime. Assurance arrangements for each institution are agreed through the Financial Memorandum.

Assurance of the adequacy of governance is obtained through the annual audit of the following documents from each institution: a monitoring statement, corporate planning statement, financial forecasts and the accounts which include a statement of internal control.

Universities in Northern Ireland adopt the Committee of University Chairmen (CUC) Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK—Governance Code of Practice and General Principles; 2004. On the 2 June 2005 the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education provided a one-day seminar on this code. This seminar was attended by representatives from both the executive teams and the governing bodies of both of the Province's universities.

Industrial Growth

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the rate of growth of total industrial production in Northern Ireland was in 2004; and what his estimate is of such growth in 2005. [4079]

Angela E. Smith: Latest figures from the Index of Production show that total industrial production output in Northern Ireland grew by 2.8 per cent. in real terms between 2003 and 2004.

Government does not produce forecasts for industrial production.

Manufacturing Employment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many jobs there were in the manufacturing sector in Northern Ireland at 31 March of each year from 1998. [4082]

Angela E. Smith: Estimates of the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector in Northern Ireland at the first Monday in March in each year 1998 to 2005 are detailed in the following table.

Table 1—Employee jobs[1] in manufacturing

	Number of jobs
March 1998	106,580
March 1999	105,310
March 2000	104,550
March 2001	102,790
March 2002	97,740

Table 1—Employee jobs[1] in manufacturing

	Number of jobs
March 2003	93,520
March 2004	90,040
March 2005[2]	87,650

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10

[2] Provisional

Note:

Figures are not seasonally adjusted

Source:

Quarterly Employment Survey, DETI

Money Advice Strategy

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the implementation of the Government's Money Advice strategy for Northern Ireland; how much has been allocated so far; and what criteria were used to determine the recipients. [4391]

Angela E. Smith: Following consultation with key stakeholders, a pilot money advice project is being delivered in 2004–05 and 2005–06 by Advice NI and Citizens Advice. The Department has allocated £550,000 of funding to the pilot project. Over £231,000 of the budget available has been drawn down to date. The locations of the specialist advice posts that are being funded are based on the evidence of unmet need identified by external independent consultants, and advice from Advice NI and Citizens Advice.

An ongoing evaluation of the pilot project will help provide the basis for developing a longer-term money advice strategy for Northern Ireland.

Planning Applications

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time taken by the Planning Appeals Commission to process planning appeals in Northern Ireland was in the last five years for which figures are available. [3501]

Angela E. Smith: The Planning Appeals Commission is a tribunal non-departmental public body, and the Chief Commissioner (John Warke) has written to the hon. Lady in the following terms. A copy of the annual report mentioned in the letter is available in the Library.

Letter from John Warke to Lady Hermon:

I have been asked to provide you with information requested in the above Parliamentary Question.

The Commission does not maintain details of the average time taken to process planning appeals and it would not be possible to obtain this information for the periods requested without disproportionate cost. The Commission does record details of the median times taken and the percentage of appeals decided within published target times.

The following table sets out the median times taken for the Commission to decide planning appeals cases (excluding enforcement).

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Formal hearings percentage within 30 weeks	—	63.6	26.3	53.3	42.1
Informal hearings percentage within 27 weeks	—	89.4	87.3	74.9	80.1
Written representation percentage within 24 weeks	94.4	96.1	86.4	94.2	86.3
All appeals median time (weeks)	21	21	23	21	23
Formal hearing median time (weeks)	22	28	38	30	34
Informal hearing median time (weeks)	—	22	25	24	24
Written representations with accompanied site visit median time (weeks)	18	20	22	20	22
Written representations with no accompanied site visit median time (weeks)	16	19	20	17	19

I have also set out the figures relating to the intake of planning appeals (excluding enforcement) over the same period.

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Appeals received	267	359	314	472	711
Percentage change in yearly intake	+6.8	+34.8	-12.5	+50.3	+50.6
Appeals withdrawn or not accepted	38	43	46	37	50
Appeals decided	215	265	264	385	493
Appeals in hand at year's end	103	154	158	208	376

I would be happy to provide any further information you require arising out of this response or to meet with you to discuss the matter if that would be more suitable. I have enclosed a copy of the Commissions' Annual Report for the year ending March 2004 which I hope you will find of interest.

Rates Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment are on the impact of reforming domestic rates into a capital value system on *(a)* Protestant and *(b)* middle class areas. [4375]

Angela E. Smith: The Equality Impact Assessment concluded, on the basis of the evidence available, that Protestants are likely to face a higher property tax liability than average under a discrete capital value system. However, taking into account all relevant factors, including ability to pay, such an impact is not considered to be an inappropriate one.

The Equality Impact Assessment did not address the impact on middle class areas as socio-economic status is not a section 75 category.

TK-ECC

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps Invest Northern Ireland is taking to attract inward investment for the former TK-ECC factory site; and if he will make a statement. [4072]

Angela E. Smith: The former TK-ECC factory site is privately owned and Invest NI continues to work with the owners and their agents to market the property in line with the existing employment/industrial use for which it is currently zoned.

Despite a very competitive global marketplace, Invest NI's international sales and marketing strategy continues to aggressively promote all areas of Northern Ireland as attractive and viable locations for new inward investment opportunities. Invest NI encourages potential investors to consider areas throughout Northern Ireland, including Dundonald, capable of sustaining the project in question. Ultimately it is the promoter of the project, and not Invest NI, that makes the final decision as to where the project will be established, although Invest NI's Local Offices Network works closely with key stakeholders to ensure that detailed information on sub-regional sales propositions is available to all potential investors.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 June 2005

DEFENCE

Armed Forces (Recruitment)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from Coventry, South were recruited into the armed forces in the last period for which figures are available. [4823]

Mr. Touhig: Information is not held in the form requested. The number of personnel recruited into the armed forces as other ranks from applications registered by Coventry armed forces careers office during financial year 2004–05 was 214. Broken down by service the numbers recruited were:

	Number
Naval Service	31
Army	150
RAF	33

Information on officer recruits is not available on a regional basis.

Army Recruitment Campaign

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of the latest promotional campaign to encourage people to join the Army, separately identifying the cost of *(a)* DVDs, *(b)* VHS tapes and *(c)* television advertising; and if he will make a statement. [4657]

Mr. Touhig: The Army Recruiting Group is responsible for marketing recruitment for the Regular Army, the Territorial Army, Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College, and the Army Cadet Force and it runs a number of campaigns throughout the year. For this financial year, the total TV advertising budget to encourage potential officers and soldiers into the Regular and Territorial Army is £14.1 million. In addition, the budgeted cost of fulfilling individual requests for information as a result of this advertising is £1.274 million, which includes £474,000 for the cost of materials such as DVDs, videos and publications.

Belgrano

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what circumstances have led to the proposed publication of the Government files on the sinking of the Belgrano in 1982. [2056]

John Reid: There are no current plans to release the Government files on the sinking of the Belgrano in 1982.

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in his Department in 2004–05. [4541]

Mr. Ingram: HM Treasury's Public Service Agreement 2002 target to deliver £3 billion of value for money gains in central civil Government through the Office of Government Commerce does not include procurement by the Ministry of Defence.

In Budget 2005 the Chancellor announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a gross reduction of 84,000 civil service posts, including military posts in administrative and support functions. On the Office for National Statistics definition of a civil servant and on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis, the number of civil servants employed by the Ministry of Defence fell by 790. In addition, the number of local employed civilians overseas (excluding those employed in operational areas) fell by 420 FTE, giving a total civilian contribution of 1,210 FTE towards the Government's target.

Computer Facilities

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what computer facilities are provided within individual battalions for *(a)* officers and *(b)* non-commissioned officers to perform their duties. [3257]

Mr. Touhig: Every Army unit has access to computers and officers and non-commissioned officers have access to such facilities where their role requires it. The Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme is currently being introduced and will further enhance capability and accessibility of computer systems by early 2007.

Defence Training Review

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department was not permitted to make an in-house bid for the Defence Training Review. [4711]

Mr. Touhig *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* The Ministry of Defence's contracting strategy for the Defence Training Review rationalisation programme, which has been developed with the MOD Private Finance Unit and the Treasury, has confirmed the suitability and probity of PFI/PPP as the procurement route.

This strategy includes a public sector comparator which has been developed on the basis of how the Department would proceed if the PFI/PPP was not available. While it has the associated detail of an in-house bid, the capital investment required means that it is unlikely to be practical or affordable as a delivery option, particularly as it would not provide the flexibility, performance discipline and risk transfer envisaged by the partnering option.

Disabled Access

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all buildings occupied by his

Department in the Greater London area are fully accessible by disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [2353]

Mr. Touhig: The majority of MOD occupied buildings in central London are fully accessible by disabled people. Elsewhere within the Greater London area a lesser proportion of buildings have such access.

Under the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 there are two aspects to consider in respect of access to premises for disabled people: one as an employer and the second as a service provider. As an employer it is MOD policy, in accordance with Part II of the DDA, to make adjustments where any arrangement or physical feature of MOD occupied premises places a disabled employee at a substantial disadvantage compared to a non-disabled employee, if it is reasonable to take such steps taking into account all the circumstances of the case. MOD policy also complies with Part III of the DDA where it considered itself to be a service provider, and reasonable adjustments have been made where it was considered necessary in relation to the physical features of MOD occupied premises to overcome physical barriers to access by members of the public.

EU Defence Co-operation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government will be contributing to the *(a)* production of the EU Force Catalogue and *(b)* subsequent production of the Progress Catalogue. [5360]

John Reid: The Government will be contributing to both.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the dates of each EU Battlegroup Generation Conference in the last two years were; who attended each conference; what dates are planned for further such conferences; and who is expected to attend. [5361]

John Reid: The first EU Battlegroup Generation Conference took place on 11 May this year. The next (re-titled 'EU Battlegroup Coordination Conference') will take place in November this year on a day as yet undetermined. We expect one such conference to take place every six months.

The first conference was attended by representatives from all 25 EU member states, Bulgaria and Romania as accession states, and Norway as a third- country participant in the Battlegroups initiative. We expect future conferences to be attended by all member states, accession states, and third-country participants. The United Kingdom was and will be represented by a small team of Ministry of Defence officials.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which UK representatives attended the International Military Co-operation conference on 11 and 12 October 2004 in Wassenaar; and whether the Government agreed to work through any project groups to improve European military capabilities. [5362]

John Reid: A small team of officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office attended the conference, at which the Government did not enter into any agreement.

In 2003 EU member states decided unanimously to create European Capabilities Action Plan Project Groups to address recognised shortfalls in European military capabilities in relation to the overarching Headline Goal capability improvement process.

The United Kingdom sends a representative to 11 of the 14 groups. We will review representation as changes to these groups are implemented following a May 2005 evaluation report by the European Defence Agency.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what commitment the Government made at the EU Military Capability Conference on 22 November 2004 in Brussels; and if he will make a statement. [5382]

John Reid: The Government committed to providing as EU Battlegroups one national Battlegroup and one joint Battlegroup with the Netherlands (based on long-standing co-operation in the UK/Netherlands Amphibious Force). The national Battlegroup would be on standby for the first six months of the Initial Operational Capability period (January-June 2005); the joint Battlegroup would become available from 2007 for the Full Operational Capability period.

Our current commitment is that one of these Battlegroups will be on standby in the second half of 2008 and the other in the first half of 2010. The UK contributions will be drawn from our Joint Rapid Reaction Force as appropriate at the time.

Together with other EU Defence Ministers, the Government also agreed a declaration on European military capabilities which has been made available in the Library of the House as part of the presidency report on European Security and Defence Policy given by the July-December 2004 presidency of the Netherlands.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government have given a commitment *(a)* to support and *(b)* to join the establishment of a European Gendarmerie Force. [5383]

John Reid: The European Gendarmerie Force is a multilateral initiative by France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal to create between them a joint paramilitary police force which could be made available to EU, NATO, UN or OSCE operations.

In September 2004 the participating countries signed a five-nation Declaration of Intent and briefed others on the initiative. My predecessor welcomed it as a cooperative attempt to improve European capabilities, not least by making gendarmerie-style forces more rapidly available for such multinational operations.

Since the United Kingdom does not have paramilitary police, the question of participating in the initiative does not apply.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands conflict. [5009]

Mr. Touhig: Earlier this year my predecessor met the Chairman of the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 to discuss plans for the 25th anniversary of the Falklands conflict in 2007. It was agreed that their organisation and the MOD should collaborate on a commemorative event in London, the details of which will be developed later this year.

Far East Prisoners of War

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on the Government's ex gratia payment to former Far East prisoners of war will be made public. [4486]

Mr. Touhig: The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration is an Officer of the House and, as such, is entirely independent of the Government. The publication of her reports is a matter for her.

Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will allow an in-house bid for his Department's work at the base in Gibraltar. [5056]

Mr. Ingram: It is the Ministry of Defence's intention to seek both an in-house option and bids from contractors for the delivery of key support functions under Project Pegasus. Unfortunately, until the Trade Unions return to the Whitley process, we will be unable to pursue the in-house option.

However, we do not judge an in-house option feasible to deliver estate services efficiently. There is no in-house expertise in key areas including the provision of trained and experienced personnel to implement mandated safe systems of work; tendering and letting works contracts; and the management and control of directly employed labour to carry out maintenance tasks. An in-house option could neither achieve the economies of scale that could be offered by industry, nor the transfer of large elements of risk (both financial and health and safety) from the Department. It would not therefore deliver the required savings or achieve full value for money for the tax payer.

Interoperability

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what areas of British armed forces he expects to comply by 2010 with the Headline 2010 goal of interoperability. [5380]

John Reid: The Government are committed to improving interoperability across the armed forces with both EU and NATO partners.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which areas of UK military equipment he expects to be pooled and shared with other EU member states by 2010. [5381]

John Reid: None.

Iraq

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses serving in Iraq are (i) regular service personnel, (ii) territorial or reserve personnel and (iii) civilian agency staff; and if he will list the respective pay scales of each. [4665]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* There are currently 29 United Kingdom military doctors serving in Iraq, of which three are Reservists, and 75 UK military nurses, of which 35 are Reservists. There are no civilian doctors and four civilian agency medical nurses in Iraq working for the UK armed forces.

The pay scales for military personnel, both regular and reservist are published in the 2005 Armed Forces Pay Review Body reports. The civilian agency staff are employed through two contracts and MOD does not hold the information about what the individuals are paid.

Landing Ship Dock Programme

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Swan Hunter has made representations regarding additional funding for the Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary) programme above the £87 million negotiated last year; and whether there have been variations to the contract since January. [3919]

Mr. Ingram: Swan Hunter has recently confirmed to the Ministry of Defence that its costs to complete the Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary) programme are likely to increase. The extent to which the MOD may bear any additional costs is currently being assessed. There have been minor variations to the contract since January 2005, predominately for the procurement of spares to support the vessels.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 446W, on Trident, whether the range of options about the future of the UK strategic nuclear deterrent includes an option of not proceeding with a new generation strategic nuclear deterrent. [4353]

John Reid: The Labour Party's manifesto for the 2005 general election made clear our commitment to retain the UK's independent nuclear deterrent.

Although decisions on any replacement for Trident are likely to be taken in the current Parliament, it is too early to rule out, or rule in, any particular option.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 446W, on Trident, whether the decision on whether to replace Trident will be the subject of a substantive vote in Parliament. [4354]

John Reid: It is too early to say what formal procedures might be used to underpin future decision-making by the Government in this area.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparatory work has begun on a replacement for Trident; what the cost of that work has been; and if he will make a statement. [4846]

John Reid: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 333–34W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

QinetiQ

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role QinetiQ plays in *(a)* testing and *(b)* evaluating the effectiveness of military training programmes. [2342]

Mr. Ingram: QinetiQ's Centre for Human Sciences (CHS) operates a training advisory group employing circa 10 people, providing support to the MOD on training needs analysis and the optimisation of training regimes.

QinetiQ's Centre for Human Sciences has been involved with testing and evaluating the effectiveness of military training programmes in a number of areas including:

Effective and Efficient Army Collective Training—CHS has been involved in work improving the cost-effectiveness of a number of training systems currently being developed by the Army.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Training—CHS has been involved in the development of effective and efficient training for the Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the potential for conflicts of interest where QinetiQ is competing for departmental contracts; and if he will make a statement. [2558]

Mr. Ingram: During the QinetiQ vesting process, the potential for such conflicts of interest was considered. To ensure any such conflicts were properly addressed, two courses of action were taken:

The Ministry of Defence ownership interest in QinetiQ was kept completely separate from the competitive contract placement activities.

Compliance processes were implemented, which ensure advice QinetiQ provides to MOD is independent of commercial contracts that could give rise to a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to complete the privatisation of QinetiQ. [3694]

Mr. Ingram: In February 2003 the Ministry of Defence announced its intention to sell its entire stake in QinetiQ within three to five years and that this would probably be by way of a flotation on the stock market. No decisions have yet been made on the precise timing.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* British and *(b)* overseas company acquisitions made by QinetiQ in each year since 1997. [4656]

Mr. Ingram: QinetiQ was vested in July 2001. Since that date it has made three full acquisitions, all in 2004:

(a) One British company, HVR Consulting Services Ltd.; and

(b) Two US companies, namely Foster Miller Inc. and Westar Aerospace and Defense Group Inc.

In addition, during 2004, QinetiQ purchased the remaining 55 per cent. of its joint venture, ASAP Calibration Limited, making it a wholly owned subsidiary.

Royal Navy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to fit *(a)* HMS Gloucester and *(b)* HMS Manchester with the Mark 8 Mod 1 gun. [3877]

Mr. Ingram: There are no plans to fit the 4.5 inch Mark 8 Mod 1 gun to either HMS Gloucester or HMS Manchester. However, two Batch 3 Type 42 Destroyers, HMS York and HMS Edinburgh, were recently fitted with the Mod 1 configuration as part of their scheduled upkeep work. There are no plans to retrofit the gun to any other Batch 2 or Batch 3 Type 42s.

Territorial Army

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army medical personnel *(a)* have been and *(b)* are deployed in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [4660]

Mr. Touhig: Some 2,740 Territorial Army (TA) medical personnel have been called up in support of operations in Iraq. There are currently some 230 TA medical personnel serving in Iraq.

Type-23 Destroyers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ship sets of Sonar 2087 have been ordered; to which Type-23s they will be fitted; and if he will make a statement. [3879]

Mr. Ingram: A total of eight ship sets of Sonar 2087 have now been ordered. A contract to procure sets seven and eight of Sonar 2087 was placed with Thales Underwater Systems in April 2005. The Type 23 frigates to which Sonar 2087 will be fitted have not changed since the answer I gave on 9 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 691W, to the hon. Member.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned cars were recorded in each local authority in England and Wales in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05. [4601]

Mr. Bradshaw: Estimates for abandoned vehicles removed and destroyed in England have been compiled in the DEFRA municipal waste management survey since 2001. The figures for 2003–04 are shown in a table placed in the Library of the House. We do not have the figures for Wales. The figures for 2004–05 will be released once they have been collated and verified.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on limiting the use of fast-growing breeds in the broiler industry. [3771]

Mr. Bradshaw: The recently published proposal for a Council directive laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production

includes a commitment from the Commission, of not later than five years from the date of adoption of the directive, to submit to the European Parliament and to the Council, a report concerning the influence of genetic parameters on identified deficiencies resulting in poor welfare of chickens. The UK will be involved in discussions on the proposal with other member states, in working groups, over the next few months.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make representations to the European Commission to implement the recommendations of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Welfare for a maximum stocking density of 25 kg/sq m. [3790]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European Commission has recently published proposals for a Council directive laying down minimum rules, including a two tier stocking density, for the protection of chickens kept for meat production. The proposal takes account of the recommendations of the SCAHAW report and the results of recent scientific research.

Aquatic Environment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information she has procured to establish the levels of residues from anti-depressant drugs in the *(a)* livers, *(b)* brains and *(c)* muscle of fish. [4449]

Mr. Bradshaw: As a follow-up to studies commissioned by the Environment Agency in which trace levels of some pharmaceuticals were detected in UK sewage effluents and rivers, the CEFAS Laboratory at Burnham on Crouch has investigated the presence of selected pharmaceutical products, including the antidepressant Lofepramine, in the liver and muscles of a small number of pike in the Grand Union canal. Pike are predatory fish and due to biomagnification will exhibit the highest levels of any residues likely to enter the food chain. Lofepramine was not detected in any of the samples.

The Environment Agency have developed a position statement on pharmaceuticals—which can be found on the Agency's website, www.environment-agency.gov.uk (search-pharmaceuticals). This elaborates further on the work done and includes a recommendation to the pharmaceutical industry to do more on the development of analytical methods for environmental monitoring. I am pleased that the Environment Agency is in discussion with the industry on the development of a work programme to cover the recommendations to industry listed in the position statement.

Illegal Meat

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will increase the resources available for detecting imports of illegal meat. [4816]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have made available an additional £25 million over the three financial years from 2003–06 to tackle illegal imports from outside the European Union of any meat, other animal products and plant products. The majority of this funding is for additional resources to be deployed by Customs to detect illegal imports at the frontier. The current level of funding has been included in Customs' allocation for future years. Funding will also continue to be available for Defra to examine the risks and help increase public awareness, and for the FSA for work on inland controls.

Overall, the money for the illegal imports programme needs to be looked at in the context of the whole control regime including the legal trade. Funding has to be proportionate to risk. Our controls compare well with other EU member states.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are taken by her Department to detect illegal bush meat imported through British ports and airports; and if she will make a statement. [4817]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have made available an additional £25 million over the three financial years from 2003–06 to tackle illegal imports from outside the European Union of meat (including bush meat), other animal products, and plant products. Customs are responsible for anti-smuggling controls at the border. In addition to their 3,500 detection staff, they also have dedicated extra resources (c 100 officers and a 10 'meat' detector dog programme) targeting higher risk import routes.

This has resulted in a considerable increase in seizures in 2003–04 to 15,838. There was a further significant increase in 2004–05—final figures will be published in DEFRA's annual review in July. However bush meat forms only a very small part (approx 3 per cent.) of Customs seizures of POAO.

The National Audit Office recently published (23 March 2005) a report recognising the good work of Customs in detecting illegal imports, and that our controls compare well to those of other EU member states. I am also pleased that there have been eight successful prosecutions, the most recent in June resulting in a custodial sentence.

Customs will continue to be vigorous in tackling illegal imports, including the use of new technology such as over-the-belt X-ray scanners at selected major airports to assist in its operations.

We recognise that the risk of disease can never be reduced to zero, but a number of measures that the Government have taken to improve prevention, detection, and domestic biosecurity, has we believe, reduced the risk.

Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to local authorities of implementing the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. [4296]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost to local authorities of meeting the Landfill Directive targets for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill through the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme was considered in the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Landfill Allowance and Trading Scheme (England) Regulations 2004. The aim of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme is to enable local authorities to meet these targets in the most cost-effective way.

In terms of administrative costs, there will be no significant additional burden on waste disposal authorities as a result of implementing the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. Authorities are now required to submit monitoring information quarterly rather than annually but Waste Dataflow enables them to do this electronically. They will also need to register any transfer of allowances on an electronic register. Neither are considered onerous tasks.

Municipal Recycling

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Government targets for recycling provision local authorities must meet over the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [4297]

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the use of weight-based targets for local authorities in respect of their recycling activities. [4478]

Mr. Bradshaw: In response to recommendation 9 of the strategy unit report "Waste not, Want not", the Government are currently undertaking a review of recycling and composting targets in the light of performance against 2003–04 targets. The review is considering the efficacy of the existing suite of targets, and the value in setting future targets. It will take into account the fact that there are already a number of policy levers designed to drive the management of waste up the hierarchy. The targets review will inform decisions by Ministers—as soon as possible—on any adjustment to existing targets and on any new sustainable waste targets to be set at national or local level aimed at driving up performance. Both reviews will take full account of stakeholders' and the public's views.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the collection practices of local authorities for recycling purposes arising from the use of weight-based targets, with particular reference to the relationship between material collected and available in UK markets for that material. [4479]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have not conducted an assessment of collection practices rising from the use of weight based targets. However, given the large increases in the amounts of recyclates targeted for collection, we have tasked the Waste and Resources Action Programme to develop markets for recycled materials and products. Six core materials streams have been identified as priorities for market development purposes, four of which (glass, organics, paper and plastics) arise both in the household and the commercial waste streams. WRAP is targeting the creation of an additional 4,225,000 tonnes of market capacity per year for these six materials in the course of their 2004–06 business plan.

Non-motor Vehicle Batteries

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of non-motor vehicle batteries were recycled in the latest year for which figures are available. [4438]

Mr. Bradshaw: Less than 2 per cent. of spent portable batteries were collected in the UK for recycling. We believe the level of collection of industrial batteries for recycling is higher, but we do not have precise figures. The Government plan to undertake work to establish the collection and recycling levels being achieved for industrial batteries.

Primates

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate how many primates *(a)* are being kept as pets and *(b)* were imported in each of the last five years in order to satisfy the demand for pets. [4074]

Jim Knight: In answer to point *(a)* , we do not keep definitive figures of the total number of primates kept as pets in the UK but a study in 2000, commissioned by my Department, indicated that 655 primates were kept in England and Wales under Dangerous Wild Animals Act licences (this Act regulates many, but not all, primate species).

In answer to point *(b)* , an import permit issued in accordance with EU Regulations implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is required for the import of all primates into EU and may only be issued when certain conditions have been met. It is our view that primates are not suitable for the general pet trade and permits are therefore limited to zoos, scientific institutions, or specialised private keepers. It is not possible to provide information on how many primates are imported each year to satisfy the demand for pets because the internationally agreed import purpose codes do not break the figures down in this way.

Last week I announced the Government's intention to go out to public consultation regarding the use of the powers under Article 8.2 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 by the end of July. The Regulation is essentially a conservation measure but we shall certainly consider whether it would be appropriate to use these powers to restrict the keeping of primates as pets.

Recycling

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* mobile phones and *(b)* printer cartridges were (i) recycled, (ii) reused overseas and (iii) disposed of within the UK waste stream in each of the last five years. [4437]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not currently collect data on the numbers of mobile phones and printer cartridges that have been recycled, reused or disposed of in the UK waste stream.

The Government will be collecting data on the amounts of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), including IT and telecoms equipment, reused and recycled to report to the European Commission when the producer responsibility obligations of the WEEE Directive come into force from January 2006.

Rights of Way

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she intends to set a commencement date for the provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act concerning the introduction of restricted byways; and if she will make a statement. [4181]

Jim Knight: The Government are proposing to use the new category of right of way, restricted byway, to put into effect its proposals to curtail claims for mechanically propelled vehicle rights, as set out in Part 6 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill. This will be achieved by enabling rights acquired by non mechanically propelled vehicles to be recorded as restricted byways rather than byways open to all traffic.

The regulations necessary to implement the restricted byway provisions have already been drafted. However, before laying the regulations and commencing the relevant provisions we will need to ensure that the final terms of Part 6 of the Bill are compatible with these regulations.

Waste Resources, Treatment and Action Programme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the EU investigations into whether the UK is failing to fulfil its obligations under Article 3(1) and Annex IA and Articles 5(2), 5(3), 10 and Annex I.B of Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment. [4941]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* I can confirm the European Commission is conducting an investigation into UK compliance with the provisions of the Directive cited in the question. The detail and outcome of the investigation are a matter for the European Commission to comment on.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department will reply to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee Report on Waste Policy and the Landfill Directive. [3462]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government will reply to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee Report on Waste Policy and the Landfill Directive as soon as possible.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total expenditure by the Waste Resources and Action Programme was in 2003–04; and how many tonnes of waste were recycled in that year. [3469]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total expenditure by the Waste Resources and Action Programme in 2003–04 was £31,552,752.

The total amount of municipal waste collected in the UK for recycling in that year was 6.4m tonnes, of which 5.2m tonnes was household waste. The equivalent England-only figures are 5.5m tonnes and 4.5m tonnes.

Data for total tonnage recycled are not available.

TRANSPORT

A21

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of *(a)* the current level and *(b)* the future level of noise pollution emanating from the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge. [5198]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency do not have specific details of: *(a)* the current level and *(b)* the future level of noise pollution emanating from the proposed A21 Flimwell to Robertsbridge Improvement as it has not yet entered the Government's Targeted Programme of Improvements. However, initial work done to support the Preferred Route Announcement would indicate that a moderate improvement for those people living close to the existing road could be expected. A detailed noise assessment will be carried out at the next design stage.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of speed limits on the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge on managing traffic flow. [5199]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has carried out localised assessments of traffic speed on the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge and noted that speed was a contributory factor to the accident record on this section. It has responded to these safety concerns in several ways, one of which is to reduce the speed limit through the Flimwell crossroads, along the Flimwell dual carriageway and at the Northbridge Street pedestrian crossing.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce funding for upgrading of the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge. [5200]

Dr. Ladyman: We announced in December 2004 that our decisions on schemes on trunk roads categorised as predominantly of regional importance, and which would not be starting works until after 2007–08, will be taken after advice from the regions. Each region will consider such schemes alongside other proposed transport investment in their region. We are currently considering the arrangements, including timescales, for obtaining regional advice in the light of the responses to our consultation on these proposals.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to carry out further consultation into the proposed improvement of the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge. [5201]

Dr. Ladyman: We have no plans to undertake further formal consultation into the proposed improvement of the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge. The Highways Agency published the preferred route for the scheme in February 2005. This followed consultation with the public, local authorities and other interested organisations who were invited to express their views on the proposed route.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of traffic flows on the single carriageway section of the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge. [5202]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency measures traffic flow on the trunk road network on a continuous basis.

Average annual daily traffic levels for the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge for the year 2003, the last year for which figures are published, were 17,900 vehicles per day. The average annual weekday traffic was 18,100 vehicles per day, 6 per cent. of which were HGVs.

Traffic flows for 2004 are expected to be published at the end of June 2005.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much public money has been expended in the planning of the A21 improvement schemes. [5236]

Dr. Ladyman: Since 2002, £3.66 million of public money (excluding VAT) has been spent in the planning of the A21 improvement schemes.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and others about effects on *(a)* the economy and *(b)* regeneration of the local area of upgrading the A21. [5237]

Dr. Ladyman: Ministerial colleagues have liaised with DEFRA ministers on the impact of the proposed A21 schemes including the impact they would have on the rural economy.

The impact of improvements to the A21 on the Hastings's economy were considered as part of the Access to Hastings Multi Modal Study and the Highways Agency were asked to examine the viability of such improvements.

In addition following the Multi Modal Study the Secretary of State asked SEEDA (South East England Regional Development Agency) to prepare a regeneration package for the Bexhill Hastings area. The resulting taskforce produced a five point regeneration plan which includes a transport theme. Improvements to the A21 are an identified priority in this plan.

The Department's Appraisal Methodology for new road schemes takes into account, among other things, the impact a scheme would have on the regeneration of the immediate areas. Since the inception of the five point plan, the A21 Lamberhurst bypass has been opened and the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury, and A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst have both been added to the Highways Agency's Targeted Programme of Improvements.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of road safety on the single carriageway section of the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge during *(a)* peak and *(b)* off-peak times. [5239]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency carried out two assessments of road safety on this section of the A21 in the period of 2003–04 but these assessments make no distinction between peak and off-peak accident records.

The safety reports have identified accident clusters and at one specific site, where speed has been a factor, the Highways Agency has already introduced a new pedestrian crossing at Northbridge street. The Agency is looking at further safety improvements that could be carried out in the future.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of traffic speeds on the single carriageway section of the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge during *(a)* peak and *(b)* off-peak times. [5240]

Dr. Ladyman: Localised assessments of traffic speed have been undertaken but not specifically for either the peak or off-peak times. The Highways Agency's assessment is that the existing speed limit was a contributory factor to the accident record on this section of the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge.

The Highways Agency has responded to the safety record on this route and the concern of the local community by introducing a new pedestrian crossing at Northbridge street and a reduced speed limit of 40 mph on the approach to the crossing.

A27

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to make an announcement on his plans for the A27 between Beddingham and Polegate, with particular reference to the Folkington link. [5139]

Dr. Ladyman: We have asked the Highways Agency to carry out further work on less environmentally damaging options for this section of the A27. That work should be available soon and we expect to make an announcement on the way forward in the autumn.

Air Travel Organisers Licensing Scheme

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to extend the air travel organisers licensing scheme to non-charter airlines. [5726]

Ms Buck: The Department is currently considering the Civil Aviation Authority's economic analysis and assessment of the likely regulatory impact of a range of options for the future financial protection of air travellers.

Aircraft Emissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Government have to tackle aircraft emissions. [4379]

Ms Buck: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 60W, to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes). The Government's plans to tackle aircraft emissions are set out in "The Future of Air Transport" white paper, which sets out the Government's belief that the best way of ensuring aviation contributes towards the goal of climate stabilisation would be through a well-designed emissions trading regime, for which the Government will press at international and European level.

Airport Expansion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on Government policy for airport expansion in the UK. [4380]

Ms Buck: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 20W.

Buses

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money the Government provided for rural bus services in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; and what the projected figure is for 2005. [4358]

Ms Buck: Allocations to local authorities of Rural Bus Subsidy Grant were £48.5 million in 2003–04, £51 million in 2004–05 and £53 million in 2005–06.

In 2003, new awards totalling £20.3 million were announced in the final annual round of the Rural Bus Challenge (RBC) competition. Typically RBC awards provide project funding lasting for two to three years.

In addition, support for rural bus services was included in awards made under the Countryside Agency's Rural Transport Partnership and Parish Transport schemes. A total of over 250 awards were made by the Agency under these schemes in 2003–04, the last year new awards were made.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money was spent on rural bus services by the Government in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; and how much is projected to be spent in 2005. [4505]

Ms Buck: The actual or projected spend by this Department on rural bus services under the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant and Rural Bus Challenge schemes is as follows:

	£ million
2003–04	61
2004–05	69
2005–06 (estimated)	72

Awards under the Countryside Agency's Rural Transport Partnership and Parish Transport schemes have also included funding for the provision of rural bus services. Total spend under those schemes was £14 million in 2003–04 and £13.5 million in 2004–05 and the projected figure for 2005–06 is £8.4 million.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents involving buses there were in each year since 1997. [5279]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available. The numbers shown in the following table are for bus/coach, this category is determined by the construction of the vehicle rather than its use and includes vehicles equipped to carry 17 or more seated passengers, regardless of whether or not the vehicle is being used in stage operation.

These figures are published each year in table 23 of "Road Casualties Great Britain: Annual Report".

Accidents involving a bus/coach[1]: GB 1997–2003

	Number
1997	11,034
1998	11,585
1999	11,735
2000	11,524
2001	11,334
2002	10,586
2003	10,765

[1] Accidents involving at least one bus/coach.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment the Government have made of the cost to local authorities of the Government's plans to introduce free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled; and if he will publish a regulatory impact assessment; [5567]

(2) what the estimated cost is of the Government's plans to introduce free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled in each year for which such an estimate has been made. [5568]

Ms Buck: The Government will provide an extra £350 million in 2006–07 and an extra £367.5 million in 2007–08 which will be sufficient to fund the cost to local authorities.

A regulatory impact assessment will be published later this year.

Concessionary Travel

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will calculate the grant settlement to cover the costs of the concessionary fare scheme announced in the Budget according to public transport usage figures or figures for the take-up of concessionary travel; [4213]

(2) what estimate he has made of the costs to local councils from April 2006 of the introduction of a free fare scheme for people aged 60 plus and the disabled for local journeys by bus; how he expects councils to meet the increased costs of concessionary fares; and what proportion of the increase will be met by the Treasury. [4214]

Ms Buck: The Government will provide an extra £350 million in 2006–07 which will be sufficient to fund the cost to local authorities. A final decision on the distribution of the extra funding has not yet been made.

Container Ports

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will announce the results of the outstanding applications for major container port developments. [4685]

Dr. Ladyman: Decisions will be announced on individual applications for major container port developments when Ministers have completed their consideration on each case.

Crossrail

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has given to the preferred bidders for the Greater Western franchise on the impact of Crossrail on the bid. [4566]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* Crossrail is currently the subject of a hybrid Bill before Parliament and the timing of its construction and operation is therefore dependent on the outcome of that process. The tender documentation notes that, in the event that Crossrail is authorised by Parliament and proceeds, the impact of its construction will be dealt with under the Network Change provisions of the Track Access Agreement. Furthermore, bidders have been advised to assume that Crossrail services will not operate during the term of the Greater Western franchise.

Elderly Drivers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has carried out into accidents caused by elderly drivers suffering from medical conditions which rendered them unfit to drive. [5192]

Dr. Ladyman: Research on elderly drivers and medical conditions has been included where relevant in the Department's programme of research on Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive, but specific projects on elderly drivers have not been commissioned. Research has been completed on medical aspects of fitness to drive relating to visual field defects and excessive daytime sleepiness. Research is in progress on risks of further acute vascular events, insulin treated diabetes and driving, further study of visual field defects relating to central scotoma, and attitudes of health professionals to giving advice on fitness to drive.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate what percentage of road accidents in the area corresponding as closely as available to the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency involved heavy goods vehicles in 2004. [5860]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not yet available for 2004. There were five accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicle in the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency in 2003, which is 3 per cent. of the 181 reported road accidents in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the damage to roads caused by heavy goods vehicles. [5902]

Dr. Ladyman: UK design and assessment loading standards for highway structures were last made to cover the effects of 40-tonne EU vehicles prior to them being permitted on UK roads from 1 January 1999. Extensive research has shown that road pavement damage is strongly influenced by axle loadings, which have not increased since that time; for an individual axle mass of 10.5 tonne, there is approximately 40 per cent. less road wear than for an axle mass of 11.5 tonnes. Thus 44 tonnes gross weight vehicles as are now permitted to operate on UK roads and mainly fitted with six axles, each with a limit of 10.5 tonnes, cause less road wear than 40 tonne vehicles operating with five axles each with an 11.5 tonne limit.

Motorway Repairs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance is given to contractors on motorways about the length of carriageway that should be coned off in order to achieve the optimum balance between completing road works efficiently and not increasing congestion unduly. [4989]

Dr. Ladyman: Guidance on the effects of road works and the steps that can be taken to minimise these are provided in Chapter 8 of the Department for Transport's traffic signs manual published by the Stationery Office. Specific advice is given on the maximum lengths of roadworks and the minimum distance between adjacent roadworks on trunk and principal roads. This advice is intended to provide the balance between enabling the work to be done efficiently and safely and minimising inconvenience to the public.

The Highways Agency also uses a computer based system to enable contractors to determine the potential delays caused by different layouts, so that they can be minimised.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the five miles of one of the carriageways of the M1 motorway in both directions was coned off and closed to traffic on 3 June, when work was only being carried out over a distance of 100 yards; and if he will make a statement. [4990]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency commenced major maintenance work on the M1 between junctions 29 to 30 northbound and southbound on 4 May 2005. The work is to replace worn out sections of the carriageways. The Agency is also taking the opportunity to renew central reservation safety fencing and the joints of five separate bridges that are located along the length of the traffic cones. All of this work is undertaken at night.

On 3 June, the night operations included work at all five bridge locations and safety fence works. The cones remain in place during the day because it would not be safe or practical to remove and reset the traffic cones daily, as this would be an added danger to the workforce and incur considerable costs to the project.

The traffic management layouts and works programme have been carefully designed to maximise lane availability for road users. Three lanes are maintained during peak hours in the day and two at night in both directions, while maintaining safety for the workforce and travelling public.

The work is progressing well and is on course for completion by the end of August 2005.

Off-Road Vehicle Licensing

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much surplus revenue was raised from the Statutory Off-Road Notification vehicle licensing scheme over and above the costs of administering the scheme in 2004–05. [5276]

Dr. Ladyman: The surplus revenue from the Statutory Off-Road Notification vehicle licensing scheme in 2004–05 was £13,000.

Pedicabs

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the Disability Discrimination (Transport Vehicles) Regulations 2006 will apply to pedicabs; and what assessment his Department has made of whether pedicab vehicles comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; [6041]

(2) if he will meet the operators of pedicabs to discuss ways in which their vehicles can be redesigned to conform with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [6042]

Ms Buck: To the extent that pedicabs fall within the definition of "taxi" as defined in the regulations, which we published in draft in November 2004, then it is proposed that they will be covered.

Accessibility regulations have not yet been made under Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. When those regulations are made they will require that taxis, as defined in the Act, are subject to the accessibility requirements. We have no immediate plans to meet with pedicab operators to discuss accessibility issues.

Public Transport (Fatal Accidents)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal accidents there were on public transport in England in each year since 1997. [1386]

Ms Buck: The table gives number of fatalities in road accidents on buses or coaches, minibuses and taxis. These include passengers, drivers and other staff on the vehicle. They do not include casualties in accidents which occurred off the public highway, such as in bus depots. Road vehicles are recorded by construction rather than use. Bus, coach and minibus casualties in the table are not necessarily those from vehicles used for public service.

Rail fatalities are given for train accidents and accidents through movement of railway vehicles such as boarding and alighting from trains.

Public transport: road

	Taxi	*Minibus*[1]	*Bus or coach*
1997	12	—	14
1998	5	—	18
1999	10	15	11
2000	12	14	15
2001	4	24	14
2002	6	7	19
2003	11	16	11

[1] Prior to 1999, data for minibuses were included with motor caravans.

Public transport: rail[2]

	Number
1996–97	21
1997–98	42
1998–99	32
1999–2000	60
2000–01	34
2001–02	26
2002–03	42

[2] Rail accidents are train accidents and accidents through movement of railway vehicles.

Race Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3536]

Ms Buck: The Department for Transport is strongly committed to promoting race equality as an employer, in the services that the Department and its agencies deliver and in the policies that it develops. The Department published its Race Equality Scheme 2005–08 on 31 May 2005.

The Race Equality Scheme and the associated Action Plans for 2005–08 set out how the Department, its six Executive agencies and other organisations for which the Department is responsible, will comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

The Department monitors, analyses and publishes the outcomes of the following on an annual basis: recruitment activity including promotions; training and development; performance appraisals; discipline cases; grievance cases; and ceased employment. All the Department's functions and policies have been assessed and will continue to be assessed for their race relevance to meet the specific duty of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

Road Accidents

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents occurred on the A49 between Ludlow and Shrewsbury in the last 12 months. [3654]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Accidents

Severity	*2003*
Fatal	1
Serious	2
Slight	45
Total	48

Road Fund Licences

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of motorists were issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency with a renewal

notice for their *(a)* road fund licence and *(b)* statutory off-road notification declaration in the most recent year for which information is available. [5737]

Dr. Ladyman: A total of 39,800,854 licences or SORN renewal reminder notices were issued by DVLA in 2004–05. At the end of 2004–05 there were 32,258,857 licensed vehicles and 2,201,933 vehicles for which a SORN declaration had been made.

The number of reminder notices issued exceeds the total stock of vehicles mainly because motorists have the option of purchasing six months licences. In these cases two reminder notices were issued over the licensing year.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road fund and *(b)* statutory off-road notification declarations were issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for each construction and use class of motor vehicles in each of the last five years for which records are available; and how many renewal reminder notices were issued in each category. [5742]

Dr. Ladyman: DVLA does not hold these details broken down by category of vehicle. The tables detail the numbers of tax renewal reminders notices issued by DVLA and the total number of VED applications and SORN declarations processed together with the licensed vehicle stock, broken down by category at the end of each year.

Tax renewal reminder notices issued (no separate figures are held for SORN reminders)

	Number
2000–01	36,587,988
2001–02	36,775,597
2002–03	37,613,560
2003–04	37,835,189
2004–05	39,800,854

Applications processed

Number

Licensing Applications	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Licence renewal reminder notices	27,997,556	28,965,236	29,224,804	31,518,374	30,207,779
Manual licensing applications	9,104,644	9,310,662	9,457,992	8,751,798	9,472,862
Total	37,102,200	38,275,898	38,682,796	40,270,172	39,680,641

SORN declarations

Number

	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
SORN reminder notices	1,059,293	1,162,387	1,222,733	1,699,067	2,292,656
SORN manual declarations	115,906	258,771	352,351	946,811	366,339
Total	1,175,199	1,421,158	1,575,084	2,645,878	2,658,995

Licensed vehicle stock

Thousand

	2000-01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Cars	24,406	25,126	25,782	26,240	27,028
Taxis	38	39	39	39	41
Tricycles	954	1,010	1,070	1,135	1,191
Motorcycles	24	22	21	19	18
Light goods	2,204	2,276	2,343	2,434	2,581
Goods	583	603	625	639	663
Bus and coach	173	172	173	175	178
Agricultural	287	284	292	304	321
Others	229	216	213	222	238
Total	28,898	29,747	30,557	31,207	32,259

Road Pricing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects that the *(a)* London congestion charging scheme and *(b)* Durham congestion charging scheme would continue if universal road pricing were introduced; and if he will make a statement. [5566]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 June 2005 to the hon. Members for Dundee, East (Stewart Hosie) and for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Safety Cameras

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras have operated since 6 December 2004, broken down by *(a)* partnership, *(b)* class of road and *(c)* between (i) fixed and (ii) mobile cameras. [5184]

Dr. Ladyman: Information, as held by the Department, was provided in my answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 617–19W. Further detailed information is available from partnerships.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 617W, on speed cameras, for

what reasons some safety camera partnerships were not included in the answer; and if he will provide the relevant information. [5191]

Dr. Ladyman: The previous question and my answer related to the number of speed cameras as at December 2004, and it covered all 35 partnerships in the safety camera programme at that time. With effect from 1 April 2005, the number of partnerships has increased to 38, including a separate Gloucestershire partnership (previously included as part of the combined Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire Partnership), Surrey and Merseyside partnerships, which joined the programme from 1 April 2005.

The number of speed camera sites in these three partnership areas, as at 1 April is:

Number

	Gloucestershire	*Surrey*	*Merseyside*
Fixed	29	16	27
Mobile	50	0	0
Total	79	16	27

Taxis

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many green and yellow badge licensed taxi drivers there have been in London in each year since 1975. [5378]

Ms Buck: The following table shows the number of green (all London) and yellow badge (suburban) licensed taxi drivers there have been in London in each year since 1975. This information has been provided by the Public Carriage Office (figures for the split between yellow and green badge are not available for 1975 and 1976).

Number of licensed taxi drivers at end of year

	All London	*Suburban*	*Total*
1975	—	—	16,037
1976	—	—	16,152
1977	14,981	1,493	16,474
1978	15,222	1,518	16,740
1979	15,515	1,561	17,076
1980	15,731	1,646	17,377
1981	16,058	1,766	17,824
1982	16,233	1,853	18,086
1983	16,311	1,894	18,205
1984	16,483	1,834	18,317
1985	16,867	1,782	18,649
1986	17,434	1,752	19,186
1987	17,953	1,732	19,685
1988	18,364	1,699	20,063
1989	18,854	1,671	20,525
1990	19,112	1,814	20,926
1991	18,546	1,674	20,220
1992	18,728	1,765	20,493
1993	19,017	1,760	20,777
1994	19,572	1,766	21,338
1995	20,154	1,781	21,935
1996	20,304	1,805	22,109
1997	20,287	1,965	22,252
1998	20,395	2,077	22,472
1999	20,889	2,457	23,346
1999–2000	20,985	2,404	23,389
2000–01	21,337	2,541	23,878
2001–02	21,712	2,708	24,420
2002–03	21,809	2,937	24,746
2003–04	21,745	3,105	24,850
2004–05	21,561	3,114	24,675
Today	21,569	3,123	24,692

Traffic Survey (M1)

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason a traffic survey was carried out on the M1 near to its intersection with the M25 on 8 June. [4991]

Dr. Ladyman: While I am not aware of a specific traffic survey at this location on 8 June, traffic counts are being carried out throughout June on the M25 and the approaches to its junctions on the northern section. The traffic flow data is being used to support the design of the M25 Rapid Widening Scheme from junctions 16 to 30.

Transport Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how far pensioners who are resident in Chorley will be able to travel free in the North West under the free travel scheme. [6026]

Ms Buck: From April 2006, pensioners and disabled residents in Chorley will be guaranteed free off-peak travel on bus services within the borough council boundary. However, local authorities will retain their discretion to work together to provide a county-wide concessionary travel scheme as currently exists in Lancashire.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* others about transport provision in Kent. [5238]

Ms Buck: The Secretary of State, and his ministerial colleagues have regular and routine discussions with a variety of people about transport provision. Transport provision in the growth areas is a key issue for the Department, and Kent is often discussed in this context.

Under-age Drivers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what circumstances those who are not old enough to possess a driving licence may have imposed on them penalty points for driving offences. [5337]

Dr. Ladyman: Subject to the discretion of the court any person, of whatever age, who commits an endorseable offence may be subject to the imposition of penalty points.

An underage driver commits the offence of driving otherwise than in accordance with a driving licence contrary to Section 87(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended.

When a person is convicted of a driving offence by a court in Great Britain the court sends the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) notification of the endorsement. If the driver does not already hold a driving licence a record will be set up for them at the

DVLA. If the driver is eligible to apply for a licence, and does so while the endorsement is still valid, then the endorsement would appear on the driving licence.

Uninsured Vehicles

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of motorists aged over 70 years who drove uninsured vehicles in each of the last five years. [6346]

Dr. Ladyman: Estimates from the insurance industry are that about 5 per cent. (approximately 1.25 million) motorists drive while uninsured. There are no separate figures for the number of uninsured drivers aged over 70.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Access to Water

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish the progress report on the action taken by his Department *(a)* to progress access to water in seven key partner countries in Africa and *(b)* to boost capacity for the water sector in four other countries; and if he will make a statement. [4504]

Hilary Benn: A progress report against the DFID Water Action Plan is expected to be published by the end of July 2005. This will include a full report of progress with commitments made on World Water Day, including those relating to improving access to water in seven key partner countries in Africa and boosting capacity for the water sector in four other countries.

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which his Department is responsible available online. [3721]

Mr. Thomas: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

Afghanistan/Iraq

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* all other countries in support of humanitarian aid to (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq since 2001–02. [3638]

Hilary Benn: The latest OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) statistics for total humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan and Iraq are as follows (figures for emergency humanitarian assistance are in brackets):

£ million

	2001		*2002*		*2003*	
All donors						
Afghanistan	283.4	(217.9)	854.6	(400.6)	938.8	(231.5)
Iraq	80.6	(70.4)	77.3	(58.8)	1,387.1	(561.7)
UK						
Afghanistan	24.6	(24.4)	87.2	(62.6)	60.4	(18.8)
Iraq	8.8	(8.8)	9.2	(9.2)	110.2	(101.7)

Source:
DAC
Online Database, 9 June 2005

Non-members of the DAC have also provided support to both countries but do not report it in a comparable way. The Iraqi Government are in the process of setting up a database to track donor assistance but figures are not yet available.

DAC statistics for 2004 will be available in September. The estimated outturn for DFID spending for 2004–05 is £72.8 million for Afghanistan and £61 million for Iraq, as reported in the DFID 2005 Departmental Report.

Africa

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to reduce trade barriers in Africa. [2940]

Hilary Benn: The Government continues to seek a successful World Trade Organisation ministerial in Hong Kong in December 2005. Multilateral liberalisation that reduces tariff barriers among all countries will lead to the greatest gains for poor developing countries, including within Africa.

Reducing trade barriers in Africa requires national governments to place a strong emphasis on trade as a source of growth. DFID supports the inter-agency Integrated Framework (IF). This helps countries to develop trade policies and the capacity to implement them as a part of wider poverty reduction plans. Countries where DFID will continue to play a leading role in the IF include Lesotho, Zambia, Rwanda, and Malawi.

DFID supports several trade policy capacity building projects, including in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Ghana, and Nigeria. These assist Governments to develop trade policy, link this to poverty reduction and identify and negotiate their strategic interests in international trade negotiations. Any reduction in trade barriers within Africa must build on African countries' own regional integration efforts and development objectives and promote the development of supply side capacity to take advantage of market access opportunities. DFID also provides £11 million for a regional trade facilitation programme in Southern Africa, which supports enhanced trade within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)[1] and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)[2].

DFID is also working with the European Commission to ensure that its trade policies reduce barriers to trade in Africa, for example through influencing the current review of the EU's rules of origin to ensure they make it easier for African countries to use competitively priced inputs in their exports to the EU.

[1] SADC members: Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Mauritius.

[2] COMESA members: Egypt, Burundi, Rwanda, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Swaziland, Uganda, Kenya, Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, Namibia, and Seychelles.

Angola

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects a donor conference to be held for Angola; and if he will make a statement. [5756]

Hilary Benn: Timing on a donors' conference has not as yet been confirmed. In order to ensure that the Government of Angola take the necessary steps towards a successful conference, Donors have made clear to the Government of Angola, their view that the Government should have in place both an agreed programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and an effective poverty reduction strategy. There have been a number of discussions between the Government of Angola and the IMF on the framework for a staff monitored programme, focusing largely on issues of financial transparency and public accountability. I understand that an Angolan mission will be visiting Washington soon for further discussions on this, which we hope will achieve agreement. On the issue of the poverty reduction strategy, DFID has offered support to the Government to improve the present draft, working with civil society and other donors.

Civil Service

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in his Department in 2004–05. [4549]

Mr. Thomas: Value for money gains in central civil Government procurement for 2004–05 will be published in the 2005 Treasury Autumn Performance Report. The procurement saving for DFID is being calculated and will be incorporated within that report.

In the period to April 2005 DFID staff numbers increased in response to development priorities including the setting up of the Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit and events in the Sudan, the work of the Commission for Africa and preparation to ensure positive development outcomes from Britain's G8 and EU presidencies. In line with the Government's target of a reduction of civil service and administrative posts by 2008, DFID is firmly committed to reducing its home civil service staff numbers by 10 per cent., from 1,780 in April 2004 to 1,610 by 2008. Plans have been prepared detailing how these reductions will be effected across the organisation.

IT Contracts

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* projected cost at the time of tender and *(b)* actual cost at the time of completion was for each IT contract commissioned by the Department in the last five years. [2575]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has let two major IT contracts in the past five years. Neither contract is complete and so the actual cost at the time of completion is not available. The Human Resource system being supplied by Northgate had a projected cost at tender of £1.18 million. The QUEST Electronic Document and Record Management system being supplied by LogicaCMG had a projected base cost at tender of £9.70 million with a number of additional cost options available under the same contract.

DFID has also let a number of small IT related contracts. However our central records do not distinguish IT contracts, so provision of details for these contracts would incur disproportionate costs.

Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many trade union learning representatives there are in his Department. [3309]

Mr. Thomas: DFID currently has two accredited trade union learning representatives—one each in our London and East Kilbride offices—while two other staff in East Kilbride hope to gain accreditation shortly.

Faith Awareness Training

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in the Department received faith awareness training in 2004. [3812]

Mr. Thomas: During 2004–05, some 400 members of staff received training which included faith awareness. There is also guidance available to staff on our intranet covering the 'policy on religious observance' including time off for religious festivals, provision of prayer and meditation rooms, special dietary requirements and dress.

Faith Communities (Consultations)

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent consultations have been carried out by his Department with representatives of faith communities; and if he will make a statement. [3225]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has consulted widely with representatives of faith communities as part of an ongoing process. This has included:

a study on how DFID engages with faith groups including consultation with individual faith communities and a one day workshop;

a joint DFID/FCO audit of opinion of members the UK Muslim community and their thoughts on British foreign policy;

a number of DFID country offices have consulted faith communities in agreeing the Country Assistance Plan process, for example, Nigeria, India and Bangladesh;

ministerial meetings with faith leaders and faith based organisations such as CAFOD, Christian Aid and Islamic Relief; and

a workshop for Islamic NGOs about DFID funding options, jointly hosted with the Muslim Council of Britain.

Forests

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action he is taking to prevent further loss of forest cover in Africa. [4457]

Hilary Benn: DFID is currently helping to develop forest policy, implement reforms, and strengthen forest governance in Ghana, Cameroon, Malawi and Kenya.

DFID recently designed a new £12 million programme of work on forest governance and trade in west and central Africa. This will focus on reforms in Ghana and Cameroon, where EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) partnership agreements offer the opportunity to bring EU consumer market forces into play. DFID is also supporting civil society strengthening and dialogue between Governments, the private sector and NGOs in the Congo Basin region. DFID recently began a programme that supports links between the private sector in the four African countries of Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville and European trade federations. Our aim is to increase the awareness of African companies to new market requirements and opportunities.

DFID's work in Malawi and Kenya is helping to establish a better basis for the management of forest plantations that can supply wood for household fuel and to industry. Clearance of natural forests for small-scale agriculture is the main cause of deforestation in Africa but harvesting of forests to meet household and industrial demands are contributing factors.

Iraq

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK has spent on Iraqi reconstruction to date; and how much is planned for the remainder of the 2005–06 financial year. [4062]

Hilary Benn: DFID has disbursed £270 million for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq since March 2003. We plan to spend £65 million in 2005–06, of which £4 million has already been disbursed. DFID also provides 19 per cent. of European Community development funding: EC assistance to Iraq totalled €318.5 million for 2003 and 2004, and €200 million has been approved for 2005.

The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), funded jointly by DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, disbursed £23 million on Iraq in 2003–04 and 2004–05. GCPP has so far allocated £15 million for 2005–06.

In addition, the FCO has spent £38 million on reconstruction activities in Iraq, and the MOD have so far committed £30 million to Quick Impact Projects, most of which have been disbursed.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3556]

Hilary Benn: DFID has not identified any organisations or bodies within its area of responsibility that have an obligation to comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

Sri Lanka

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of tsunami aid distribution in Sri Lanka; and what steps the Government are taking to ensure efficient distribution. [4699]

Mr. Thomas: As in all the tsunami-affected countries, in Sri Lanka, the unprecedented scale of the disaster put considerable pressure on logistics and co-ordination mechanisms. DFID gave direct support to overcome these challenges, including the secondment of an air operations co-ordinator, two shelter advisers, an adviser to the United Nations Humanitarian Information Centre and a member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination team.

During the relief and recovery phase, DFID has supported the humanitarian work of Help Age, World Vision, Save the Children Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Sri Lankan Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Security Co-ordinator in the areas under LTTE control in the North and East of the island. The United Nations has commented that the relief effort in Tamil areas has been impressive. Our humanitarian advisers in-country are monitoring the international response and are confident that aid is getting to those in need.

On my recent visit to the east and south of Sri Lanka, I met with many families affected by the tsunami disaster and numerous national and international non-governmental organisations, United Nations and government officials working to support them.

The Sri Lankan Government's response to the relief needs have been effective and spread evenly throughout the country. However due to the geography of many affected areas government officials have struggled to identify and acquire sufficient and appropriate land to relocate houses, schools, hospitals from the Government imposed exclusion zone. To tackle this issue the Sri Lankan Government are reconsidering the decision to exclude reconstruction in a 100 to 200 m buffer zone and attempting to fast track the acquisition of land. However more needs to be done to allow the numerous donors to start reconstruction. The sheer amount of work required to obtain land has delayed the implementation of reconstruction.

Despite this, much work has been done with the construction of over 32,000 transitional shelters; 5,000 permanent houses under construction and a further

15,000 families receiving cash grants for self help reconstruction. I have impressed upon senior government officials that the affected people are often ill informed of the processes in place to support them and feel they have not been consulted on those processes.

There is a need for the Sri Lankan Government to lead on improving the capacity and delegated authority of the district and local level government structures to cope with the massively increased work load. This is required across all affected areas.

DFID stands ready to assist with technical support to the administrative/operational structures needed to be established or strengthened following the establishment of a Post Tsunami Operational Management Structure and a Post Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Plan.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on progress in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan; whether the timetable is being adhered to; what pressure he is bringing to bear on parties to ensure that deadlines are adhered to; and how the UK has monitored progress since the departure of the UK special envoy. [5003]

Hilary Benn: Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is moving forward, but is behind schedule. The crucial National Constitutional Review Commission, to which the UK provided technical expertise, will complete its work on the Interim National Constitution shortly. The presidency is due to be inaugurated, on time, on 9 July, but the formation of the Government of National Unity will be delayed by up to one month, to allow the presidency to conclude discussions on the new Government.

During my recent visit to Sudan, I pressed the parties urgently to implement the agreement, and will continue to do so. Implementation is a huge task, and our assessment is that delays are due in large part to a lack of capacity of the parties to implement the agreement. This underlines the need for international support, which DFID is are already providing, and have made clear our willingness to do more. Through the embassy in Khartoum and the (expanded) joint DFID/FCO Sudan unit in London, we will continue to monitor implementation of the CPA and work to support the parties in achieving this. We are also urging others to do more.

On 13 June, the Foreign Secretary and I announced that Alan Goulty would be appointed as the UK special representative for Darfur. He will focus on working with the African Union mediation and the parties to achieve a political solution for Darfur, within the framework of the CPA. Mr. Goulty brings a wealth of experience to this role.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to complete the arrangements for the UK mortality survey in Darfur; and what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who have died each day on average in Darfur. [4928]

Hilary Benn: The UK is funding a second World Health Organisation (WHO) mortality survey that is currently being conducted in Darfur. We expect the results will be published by the end of this month.

Very little data are available on mortality rates in Darfur. Estimates from the previous WHO study conducted in August 2004 showed that there had been between 1.5 and 3.3 deaths per 10,000 people per day. This study only surveyed people in accessible internally displaced people (IDPs) camps, and had very little coverage of South Darfur. The new survey is sampling IDPs in camps and settlements, and affected resident populations, and will allow the UN to make more up to date estimates.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the level of *(a)* malnutrition and *(b)* risks to personal health of the displaced people of Darfur. [4929]

Hilary Benn: Malnutrition rates vary across Darfur. The latest UN 'Nutrition in Crisis Situations' report published in May 2005, showed average to precarious malnutrition levels in a number of locations: in South Darfur, 15.6 per cent. of the assessed population of the Gereida Internally Displaced People camp were found to be suffering from global acute malnutrition (GAM) with 4 per cent. suffering severe acute malnutrition (SAM); in Kalma IDP camp, South Darfur, the GAM rate was 9.9 per cent. and the SAM rate was 2.6 per cent.; in West Darfur across three camps in the Jebel Mara area, the GAM rate was 16.2 per cent. and the SAM rate 1.5 per cent. GAM rates of 20 per cent. or above or SAM rates of 5 per cent. or above would denote a very serious situation.

In its latest update on the health situation in Darfur, the World Health Organisation said that between 28 May and 3 June there were 66,617 reported cases of illness among the 1.56 million people under its surveillance in Darfur. The biggest causes of illness were acute respiratory tract infection (17 per cent.), malaria (6 per cent.) and bloody diarrhoea (4 per cent.).

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of the number of people dependent on food aid in Darfur; what the figure was in June 2004; and what his latest assessment is of whether sufficient food is in place to enable those who are dependent on food aid to survive the rainy season. [4930]

Hilary Benn: The World Food Programme's (WFP) latest report shows that in May this year it reached 1.8 million of its 2.3 million target beneficiaries in Darfur. In June 2004 it reached 650,000 of its 1.2 million target.

The WFP have pre-positioned 30,000 metric tonnes, sufficient to cover three months, in West Darfur in advance of the rainy season. For South and North Darfur—where the impact of the rains on access is generally less severe than in West Darfur—the WFP will continue its delivery of food throughout the rainy season. Supplies are mainly brought in via Port Sudan, though the WFP have also recently begun flying food in from Libya.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan concerning Mr. Kofi Annan's complaint that the mainly Sudanese humanitarian aid workers in Darfur face constant harassment and interference. [4999]

Hilary Benn: I raised the issue of harassment of humanitarian aid workers with both the Government in Khartoum and with officials in Darfur during my visit to Sudan last week. In particular I raised the arrest of the head of mission and Darfur coordinator of Medecins sans Frontieres (Holland) following the publication of its report on rape and gender based violence in Darfur. I was given an assurance that the matter would be resolved.

Harassment of humanitarian workers and organisations in Darfur is totally unacceptable. It represents a real threat to agencies ability to deliver life-saving assistance to the people who need it. I will continue to press the Government on this both directly and through the British embassy in Khartoum.

Tanzania

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to promote economic growth in Tanzania. [2938]

Hilary Benn: The main focus of our programme in Tanzania is to support the Government of Tanzania's own National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty. This places great importance on economic growth, which has averaged 5.4 per cent. (2.7 per cent. per capita) since 2000, as a means of reducing poverty. Last year DFID allocated £65 million directly to Government budgets to support the National Strategy and also to directly support a Tax Modernisation Programme (TMP) and Business Environment Strengthening Programme (BEST), both of which aim to improve the environment for stronger private sector-led growth. In addition, DFID is funding The Financial Sector Deepening programme which improves the access of small and micro-businesses to financial services.

UN Human Poverty Index

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of the United Nations Development Programme human poverty index as a measure of poverty; and what account is taken of the human poverty index in the allocation of UK aid to Africa. [4973]

Hilary Benn: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) human poverty index (HPI) is an internationally recognised measure of poverty. As such, the Department for International Development has not itself assessed its value but has taken account of the comparisons with other indexes, such as the UNDP human development index (HDI), which have been carried out by others. The HPI is considered a useful measure of deprivation.

The HPI is not directly taken into account in the allocation of UK aid to Africa. The allocation model used takes account of gross national income per capita, progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and vulnerability to economic shock. However, as the HPI measures deprivation, there are of course indirect links between it and these factors. Factors that will affect the impact of aid, such as governance, are also taken into account when making country allocations.

TREASURY

Breast Cancer

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of breast cancer per 1,000 women has been in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hartlepool in each year since 1990. [4331]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Iain Wright, dated 20 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the incidence of breast cancer per 1,000 women has been in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hartlepool in each year since 1990. I am replying in his absence. (4331)

The most recent available incidence figures are for the year 2002. Age-standardised incidence rates (directly standardised to the European standard population) per 100,000 females for female breast cancer in England and Hartlepool in each year since 1990 are given in the table below.

Directly age-standardised incidence rates[1] (per 100,000 females) of female breast[2] cancer in England and Hartlepool Unitary Authority, 1990 to 2002

	England	*Hartlepool*
1990	98.9	102.7
1991	105.3	90.4
1992	106.6	86.8
1993	101.5	115.0
1994	103.7	108.6
1995	103.9	115.6
1996	105.1	83.7
1997	108.1	127.6
1998	112.7	72.8
1999	116.5	92.6
2000	113.8	103.2
2001	114.5	112.9
2002	114.0	112.3

[1] Age-standardised rates per 100,000 population are directly standardised to the European standard population. In detailed analyses of trends in incidence and mortality over time for a particular cancer, ONS use age-standardised rates. These control for differences in the size and age structure of the population and allow unbiased comparison of rates over time.

[2] From 1990 to 1994, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 174; from 1995 to 2002, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Carbon Capture

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the terms of reference are of his study of the economic viability of carbon capture and storage; and if he will make a statement. [4701]

John Healey: As the Chancellor announced in the Budget, the Government are examining how they might support the development of carbon capture and storage in the Climate Change Programme Review, including the potential for new economic incentives. This assessment will consider the reliability and potential of CCS technology as a means of reducing carbon emissions, the barriers to its commercial deployment and the case for Government support through economic incentives. Carbon capture and storage will also be eligible for funding through the £25 million Carbon Abatement Technology Strategy that was launched by the Minister for Energy on 14 June.

Child Trust Funds

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many parents and carers in *(a)* the London borough of Haringey and *(b)* Hornsey and Wood Green constituency have been issued with Child Trust Fund vouchers; what the total value is of the vouchers issued up to 30 April; and if he will make a statement; [4801]

(2) how many of the parents and carers in *(a)* the London borough of Haringey and *(b)* Hornsey and Wood Green constituency who received Child Trust Fund vouchers by 30 April he estimates have set up relevant savings accounts with them; and if he will make a statement. [4802]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information based on individual local authority or parliamentary constituency is only available at disproportionate cost.

For available information on the number of vouchers issued and accounts opened I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 286–87. On the value of the vouchers which have been issued I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 680W.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of uptake by parents and carers in Strangford constituency of the Child Trust Fund has been since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [5328]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on Child Trust Fund voucher usage by parliamentary constituency is only available at disproportionate cost. UK-wide information is available and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 286–87W.

Civil Servants

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Gershon Report since his last statement to the House. [5414]

Mr. Des Browne: The OGC Efficiency Team is currently working with departments to assess progress on the Efficiency Programme, and an announcement will be made later in the year.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the civil servants he pledged to move from London to other parts of the United Kingdom in his last Budget have been relocated; and what the timetable is for further such relocations. [5417]

Mr. Des Browne: The Budget announced that over 4,300 posts overall would be moved out of London and the south-east by the end of 2004–05 and that Departments had agreed relocation plans for a further 3,500 posts, meaning that over 7,800 relocations had already been confirmed. Just over 4,600 posts have now been relocated from London and the south-east to other parts of the United Kingdom. The remainder of the original target of 20,000 is on course to be achieved by 2010.

EU Budget Contributions

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the contribution per capita of each member state of the European Union is to the total EU budget in the last year for which figures are available; and what the per capita receipts from disbursement of EU funds were in each country. [4858]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The estimated contribution and receipts per capita of each member state for the last year for which figures are available, 2003, is as follows:

€ per capita, 2003

	Gross contribution before abatement	*Gross contribution after abatement*	*Receipts*	*Net contribution after abatement*
Belgium	308	336	408	-72
Denmark	294	330	277	53
Germany	227	233	129	104
Greece	128	143	453	-310
Spain	163	182	389	-207
France	226	254	225	29
Ireland	250	282	674	-391
Italy	180	202	184	19
Luxembourg	402	454	2,355	-1,902
Netherlands	298	303	123	180
Austria	231	237	193	44
Portugal	110	124	457	-333
Finland	227	257	258	-2
Sweden	274	279	162	117
United Kingdom	255	168	105	63

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value has been of the *(a)* gross contribution to the European Union budget and *(b)* net contribution after receiving subsidies and structural funds of (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) France and (iii) Germany expressed as (A) a percentage of the gross national product and (B) per head of population in each year since 1995. [4964]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The estimated gross and net contribution for the United Kingdom, France and Germany as a percentage of gross national income and per capita in each year since 1995 are as follows. It should be noted that in line with ESA 95, gross national income has replaced gross national product.

Percentage GNI

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Gross contribution before abatement									
Germany	1.12	1.08	1.13	1.06	1.05	1.06	0.90	0.82	0.88
France	0.97	0.96	1.04	1.01	1.00	0.99	0.89	0.83	0.86
United Kingdom	1.24	1.19	0.99	1.25	1.09	1.12	0.95	0.89	0.89
Gross contribution after abatement									
Germany	1.14	1.11	1.16	1.10	1.09	1.09	0.97	0.83	0.90
France	1.00	1.02	1.09	1.07	1.06	1.05	1.00	0.93	0.96
United Kingdom	1.07	0.88	0.77	1.00	0.83	0.90	0.49	0.60	0.58
Receipts									
Germany	0.43	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.55	0.50
France	0.87	1.00	1.02	0.95	0.99	0.90	0.82	0.80	0.85
United Kingdom	0.53	0.65	0.62	0.56	0.44	0.51	0.37	0.36	0.36
Net contribution with abatement									
Germany	0.71	0.56	0.60	0.54	0.57	0.57	0.46	0.28	0.40
France	0.13	0.01	0.06	0.12	0.07	0.15	0.19	0.13	0.11
United Kingdom	0.54	0.23	0.16	0.44	0.38	0.39	0.11	0.24	0.22

Euro per capita

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Gross contribution before abatement									
Germany	257	246	253	243	248	257	222	209	227
France	199	202	217	220	225	233	216	213	226
United Kingdom	185	192	196	269	250	295	256	256	255
Gross contribution after abatement									
Germany	261	253	259	251	257	265	240	213	233
France	205	214	227	233	239	246	244	238	254
United Kingdom	160	142	153	215	189	236	132	172	168
Receipts									
Germany	99	125	125	127	122	126	126	142	129
France	179	212	213	206	224	211	199	205	225
United Kingdom	80	105	122	120	101	135	101	105	105
Net contribution with abatement									
Germany	162	129	133	125	135	139	114	71	104
France	27	2	13	26	15	35	46	32	29
United Kingdom	80	36	31	95	88	102	31	68	63

G8 Summit

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost, including security costs, will be of staging the G8 Summit. [5368]

Mr. Des Browne: At this stage it is not known what the total cost of staging the G8 Summit will be.

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conditions are attached to his debt write-off proposals for the most heavily indebted poor countries; and if he will make a statement. [5749]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I am pleased to announce that the G8 have agreed to complete the process of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries by providing additional development resources which will provide significant support for countries' efforts to reach the goals of the Millennium Declaration (MDGs), while ensuring that the financing capacity of the International Financial Institutions is not reduced.

For International Development Association (IDA) and African Development Fund (AfDF) debt, 100 per cent. stock cancellation will be delivered by relieving post-Completion Point HIPCs that are on track with their programmes of repayment obligations.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of conditional debt write-off on heavily indebted poor countries over the past three years. [5757]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The experience of the last five years of the HIPC Initiative has shown that debt relief can be an extremely effective tool in support of poverty-alleviation. The debt burden of the world's poorest countries is being reduced by some US$70 billion dollars overtime, allowing the savings from debt relief to fund country-owned strategies aimed at reducing poverty. Poverty reducing expenditures in HIPCs have on average increased from 6.4 per cent. of GDP in 1999 to 7.9 per cent. of GDP in 2003, a level about three times that spent on debt service. These increases in expenditure are increasingly being reflected in improved outcomes in HIPCs themselves.

Inflation (Council Tax)

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the inflation rate has been in each year since the creation of the council tax. [4953]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. John Hemming, dated 20 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the inflation rate has been in each year since the creation of the council tax. I am replying in his absence. (4953)

The attached table shows the annual average index and the corresponding percentage changes in the annual average index for the all items retail prices index (RPI) for the years 1993–2004 (council tax was introduced on 1st April 1993). The consumer prices index (CPI) which is the main domestic measure of inflation for macroeconomic purposes does not include council tax.

This data is available on the National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk and through the House of Commons library.

Retail prices index annual average indices and percentage changes (January 1987 = 100)

	All items index	*Annual percentage change*
1993	140.7	1.6
1994	144.1	2.4
1995	149.1	3.5
1996	152.7	2.4
1997	157.5	3.1
1998	162.9	3.4
1999	165.4	1.5
2000	170.3	3.0
2001	173.3	1.8
2002	176.2	1.7
2003	181.3	2.9
2004	186.7	3.0

Knauf UK GmbH

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when Knauf UK GmbH in Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency will receive a certificate from the Inland Revenue Stamp Duty Land Tax Centre that its stamp duty has been paid. [5791]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The rules of taxpayer confidentiality do not permit HM Revenue and Customs to disclose this information in published form, but I will write to the hon. Member.

Non-taxpayers

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in the United Kingdom who are non-taxpayers; and how many people he estimates use form R85 which allows the payment of interest on accounts with banks and building societies to be paid free of income tax to non-taxpayers. [5731]

Dawn Primarolo: On the number of non-taxpayers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) on 16 June. HM Revenue and Customs estimate that around 15 million people, including children under 16, use form R85.

Public Sector Debt

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change fiscal rules relating to the cap on public sector debt. [5134]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The sustainable investment rule states that public sector net debt as a proportion of GDP will be held over the economic cycle at a stable and prudent level. Other things being equal, net debt will be maintained below 40 per cent. of GDP over the economic cycle.

There are currently no plans to change the fiscal rules, however as noted in the Government's response to the TSC report on the 2004 pre-Budget report, the Government, of course, keep the fiscal framework under review to ensure it remains at the forefront of international best practice.

Race Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3529]

John Healey: Race awareness is integral to Treasury's diversity training, which is mainstreamed into the management and employment learning and development for senior managers and all staff. The Treasury has held events on race to address learning needs and to role model the need to promote equality across all diversity strands. In 2003 presentations were given to all Treasury directorates on the duty to promote race equality. In 2004 a seminar 'Raising our Sights on Race' was conducted with the Treasury's Ethnic Minority Advisory Group to raise awareness with representatives across all directorates of duties under the Act and the experience of ethnic minority staff in the Department.

In 2005 a Department-wide seminar involved all directorates in designing approaches to fulfil our obligations under the Act and meet our wider aspirations on diversity. The Treasury has also identified a need to provide a short summary of duties under the Act for new entrants.

Ethnicity and grade data for staff attending training on the general and specific duties of the RRA are not currently available. The Treasury has, however, recently introduced a computerised learning management system which will automatically capture data on the ethnicity and grade profiles of staff who receive training in the future. These data will be made available annually on the race equality section of the Treasury's website from spring 2006.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3530]

John Healey: The Treasury is the sole shareholder of the Bank of England and the Royal Mint, and the majority shareholder of Partnerships UK. The Bank is itself a listed public authority under the Act and has its own responsibilities under the General duty to promote race equality in all that it does. It is also bound by the

employment duties under the Act in relation to its own staff but does not have a specific duty to publish a race equality scheme. The Royal Mint and Partnerships UK are not listed under the Act. In exercising its ownership duties the Treasury will ensure that race equality issues are considered where relevant.

The Treasury has two agencies. The Office of Government Commerce has fully delegated accounting officer arrangements and will publish its own arrangements for meeting the duties under the Act. The Debt Management Office is covered by the Treasury's arrangements and the Treasury will ensure that when exercising its sponsorship duties race equality issues are considered where relevant.

Second World War

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the outstanding loan repayments due to the US Administration that arose as a result of the Second World War; and if he will make a statement. [5317]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Financial Secretary gave the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 14 October 2003, *Official Report*, column 150W.

Tax Deductibility (Overseas Companies)

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* commission payments and *(b)* consultancy fees paid by companies operating overseas are tax deductible under Inland Revenue rules. [4885]

Dawn Primarolo: Commission payments and consultancy fees made by UK companies operating overseas are deductible in computing taxable profits if *(a)* they are incurred wholly and exclusively for the purposes of their businesses and *(b)* no other provision of the Corporation Tax Acts denies a deduction for the payments and fees concerned.

Testicular Cancer

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of testicular cancer per 1,000 men has been in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hartlepool in each year since 1990. [4330]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Iain Wright, dated 20 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the incidence of testicular cancer per 1,000 men has been in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hartlepool in each year since 1990. I am replying in his absence. (4330)

The most recent available incidence figures are for the year 2002. Age-standardised incidence rates (directly standardised to the European standard population) per 100,000 males for testicular cancer in England in each year since 1990 are given in the attached table.

The numbers of cases of testicular cancer in Hartlepool Unitary Authority in individual years are very small: over the whole period 1990–2002 there was a total of 30 such cases. The corresponding age-standardised incidence rate for this period is 5.3 per 100,000 males.

Directly age-standardised incidence rates[1] (per 100,000 males) of testicular[2] cancer in England, 1990 to 2002

	England
1990	4.9
1991	5.2
1992	5.4
1993	5.5
1994	5.3
1995	5.9
1996	5.8
1997	5.7
1998	6.2
1999	6.8
2000	6.7
2001	6.6
2002	6.2

[1] Age-standardised rates per 100,000 population are directly standardised to the European standard population. In detailed analyses of trends in incidence and mortality over time for a particular cancer, ONS use age-standardised rates. These control for differences in the size and age structure of the population and allow unbiased comparison of rates over time.

[2] From 1990 to 1994, international classification of diseases, ninth revision (ICD-9) code 186; from 1995 to 2002, international classification of diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10) code C62.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

VAT (Religious Buildings)

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the 100 per cent. VAT refund on repairs to religious buildings beyond the three years pledged in his last Budget. [5390]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Chancellor has pledged funding for the listed places of worship VAT refund scheme until 2007–08 unless EU agreement on a reduced rate of VAT is achieved earlier.

Decisions on spending allocations beyond 2008 will be made as part of next year's Spending Review.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax

20. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the take-up of council tax benefit in Wales. [5092]

Mrs. McGuire: There are 272 thousand active council tax benefit claims in Wales, with over 11 thousand in Wrexham. Data on the rate of council tax benefit take-up in Wales are not available as it is only produced for Great Britain as a whole.

We are working with local authorities to make sure they have procedures in place locally to encourage people to apply for council tax benefit. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my colleague gave earlier.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister in the past two weeks to discuss a revision of the regulations relating to pensioners paying council tax; and if he will make a statement. [5088]

Mr. Timms: The Secretary of State has not had any meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister in the last two weeks to discuss pensioners and council tax.

Child Tax Credit

23. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the transfer to child tax credit of the remaining families with children in receipt of income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance. [5096]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to my earlier reply.

Pensions Commission

24. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long he expects the consultation on the findings of the Pension Commission to last. [5097]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to his hon. Friend the Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Child Support Agency

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the timetable is for transferring old cases at the Child Support Agency to the new scheme. [5091]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to my earlier reply. We have asked Stephen Geraghty, the new Chief Executive to report to us in the summer when we will consider his findings and proposals for action.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when Child Support Agency cases that pre-date the new system will be transferred onto the new system. [749]

Mr. Plaskitt: A new chief executive of the agency has recently taken up post. He will be reporting to Ministers over the summer on proposals to improve the agency's performance.

We will make a decision on the transfer of old scheme cases only once we are confident that the system and business processes are robust.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed at the Child Support Agency in each year since 1997–98; what the projected numbers are for each year to 2006–07; and if he will make a statement. [955]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty to Mr. David Laws, dated 20 June 2005:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff were employed at the Child Support Agency in each year since 1997–98; what the projected numbers are for each year to 2006–07; and if he will make a statement.

The table below shows actual staff numbers for the Child Support Agency for the period 1997–98 to 2004–05.

The table reflects whole time equivalent employees and is consistent with that shown in the Annual Report and Accounts.

	Actual staff
1997–98	8,445
1998–99	8,156
1999–2000	8,545
2000–01	9,187
2001–02	9,471
2002–03	10,287
2003–04	10,215
2004–05	9,750

The Agency is planning to employ 9,561 staff in March 2006 and March 2007. This is equivalent to 9,388 staff excluding those on unpaid absences, and is in line with the staffing levels agreed with Ministers.

Youth Unemployment

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people are economically inactive. [5093]

Margaret Hodge: There are currently 2.1 million under 25s who are classified as economically inactive, two thirds of whom are in full-time education. Of the remaining 695,000, many will be participating in part-time study or receiving support from either the Connexions Service or Jobcentre Plus.

Incapacity Benefit Claimants

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of whether people with mental health problems will be affected by the planned reform of the incapacity benefit system. [5095]

Mrs. McGuire: In developing our proposals for the reform of incapacity benefit we will continue our extensive consultation to ensure that people with mental health problems receive the right support.

The Pathways to Work pilots have drawn on the commitment and expertise from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to give people the help they need.

Benefits/Pensions (Payment Methods)

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been received regarding the introduction of Direct Payment for the payment of pensions and benefits. [3152]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However independent research has shown that there are very high levels of

satisfaction among customers who have transferred to Direct Payment with 93 per cent. of customers stating they were happy to receive their benefits in this way.

Modernising a system, which came in with ration books, caused understandable concerns, but this research has shown that the new system is proving popular. More customers now have accounts and over 12 million payments each week are now paid into customer's nominated accounts.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* information and *(b)* training has been given to Post Office staff about the exceptions scheme for people who are unable to use Post Office Card Accounts or basic bank accounts to receive their pensions or benefits. [3154]

Mr. Plaskitt: The small minority of people who are unable to use Post Office Card Accounts or basic bank accounts to receive their pensions or benefits are paid by cheque.

The cheque (formerly girocheque) is a well established method of payment and Post Office staff were already very familiar with the general processes and procedures surrounding encashment at a Post Office.

Training for Post Office staff is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. However, Post Office Ltd. were given information about changes to the cheque design and crossing limit introduced in October 2004 which they communicated to their network of branches throughout GB and Northern Ireland by means of an internal 'Operational Focus' publication.

Customers who ask Post Office staff about benefit payments are advised to contact the DWP office dealing with their claim where they will be given all the advice, information and support they need.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps the *(a)* Benefits Agency and *(b)* Pensions Agency have taken to publicise the availability of the exceptions scheme for people who are unable to use Post Office card accounts or basic bank accounts to receive their pensions or benefits; [3155]

(2) through what mechanisms benefit and pension recipients may inform his Department that the Direct Payment option of the payment of benefits and pensions is not suitable for their needs. [3159]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 117W.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimates were made prior to the introduction of Direct Payment of the proportion of people for whom this method of paying pensions and benefits would be unsuitable; and if he will make a statement. [3161]

Mr. Plaskitt: During the Spending Review 2000, a public service agreement target was set at paying 85 per cent. of benefit and pension customers into an account by the end of 2005. We met that target by January 2005 and are now paying over 96 per cent. of customer accounts by Direct Payment.

We always recognised however that there would be a small number of customers who we could not pay into an account and the cheque service was designed to pay these customers.

As at April 2005 we were paying some 712,000 customers by cheque.

Child Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were classified as living in poverty in each year from 1979–80 to 2005–06; what targets have been set for each year to 2020; and if he will make a statement. [807]

Margaret Hodge: In the mid to late 1990s, the UK suffered higher child poverty than nearly all other industrialised nations. Over the previous 20 years, the proportion of children in relative low-income households had more than doubled. As our first step towards eradicating this problem, we set an aim to reduce the number of children living in relative low-income households by a quarter by 2004–05. The data for this period will be released in 2006.

The PSA target set in the 2004 Spending Review is to halve the number of children in relative low-income households between 1998–99 and 2010–11, on the way to eradicating child poverty in 2020. As part of this, the Government will set an additional target in the 2006 Spending Review to halve by 2010 the numbers of children suffering a combination of material deprivation and relative low income.

The following table sets out both the percentage and the number of children living in households with an income of below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median, since 1997, which is most commonly used in reporting trends.

Percentage and number of children living in households with income less than 60 per cent. of median

	Before housing costs		*After housing costs*	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
1979	1.7	12	1.9	14
1981	2.4	18	2.7	20
1987	2.6	21	3.1	25
1988–89	2.9	23	3.3	26
1990–91	3.2	26	3.9	31
1991–92	3.4	27	4.1	32
1992–93	3.5	27	4.3	33
1993–94	3.3	25	4.2	32
1994–95	3.2	24	4.2	32
1995–96	3.5	26	4.6	35

Percentage and number of children living in households with income less than 60 per cent. of median

	Before housing costs		*After housing costs*	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
1994–95	2.9	23	4.0	31
1995–96	2.8	22	4.0	31
1996–97	3.2	25	4.2	33
1997–98	3.1	25	4.1	32
1998–99	3.1	24	4.1	33
1999–2000	3.0	23	4.1	32
2000–01	2.7	21	3.8	30

Percentage and number of children living in households with income less than 60 per cent. of median

	Before housing costs		*After housing costs*	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2001–02	2.6	21	3.7	30
2002–03	2.6	21	3.6	28
2003–04	2.6	21	3.5	28

Notes:
1. Family Expenditure Survey (FES) figures are for the United Kingdom, Family Resources Survey (FRS) figures are for Great Britain.
2. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
3. FES figures are single calendar years from 1979–87, two combined calendar years from 1988–89—1992–93 and two financial years combined from 1993–94—1995–96.
4. Figures are based on the new grossing regime to give more accurate results, particularly at a regional level, and to scale to updated population estimates.
5. All publications listed are available in the Library.
Source:
Family Resources Survey (GB)

Disability Allowance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people have been registered for disability allowance in East Devon in each of the last five years. [5094]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the table.

East Devon parliamentary constituency

As at February:	*Number in receipt of disability living allowance*
2001	2,100
2002	2,200
2003	2,400
2004	2,600
2005	2,800

Notes:
1. Figures taken from a 5 per cent. sample as at the end of February for each year.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. From November 2002, the methodology for producing these figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.
4. Only cases in payment have been included.
Source:
Information Centre

Health and Safety Executive

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received about the Complaints Panel that investigates complaints about the Health and Safety Executive; how many investigations the panel has looked at in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [2099]

Mrs. McGuire: We have received no representations about the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Complaints Panel.

HSE's Open Government Complaints Panel has investigated two appeals within the last two years. Further representations have been made to HSE about the panel's decision in one of these cases.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many private tenants are in receipt of housing benefit; and what estimate he has made of the cost of housing benefit for private tenants in 2005–06, broken down by local authority. [3568]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information about the number of private tenants in receipt of housing benefit, broken down by local authority, has been placed in the Library.

No estimate is available for the cost of housing benefit broken down by local authority for 2005–06.

In-work Credit

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the pilot of in-work credit to lone parents seeking work in Leeds; and if he will make a statement. [1729]

Margaret Hodge: We are currently testing the effectiveness of the £40 per week In-Work Credit in a range of areas across the country and, from October 2005, in a further six areas across the south-east.

The aim of the pilot is to gather evidence about the proportion of lone parents taking up the Credit and the Work Search Premium, and the impact in terms of supporting more lone parents to move off benefit and into work. There is strong evidence, from the evaluation of New Deal for Lone Parents, that nearly all lone parents would be more positive about considering work if the gains were over £40 per week.

The Leeds pilot began in October 2004 and preliminary analysis of administrative data shows that in the four months to January 2005, 280 payments to lone parents had been recorded.

It is too early in the life of the pilot to make an assessment. DWP has commissioned a wide ranging programme of evaluation, using independent experts to carefully assess the pilots overall. The evaluation programme includes both an impact assessment and qualitative research. The findings from the qualitative research are due to be published in autumn 2007. The first impact assessment report that will assess the pilots that started in October 2004 is due to be published in spring 2007.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what has been the cost of the return to work credit within the Pathways to Work pilots in each month since its introduction; and what proportion of people who have found work through Pathways to Work have received the credit. [2079]

Margaret Hodge: To the end of January 2005, 62.3 per cent. of those who found work through the Pathways to Work pilots received the Return To Work Credit.

Information on the actual cost each month is not available. Information on the estimated cost committed in each month is in the following table.

Estimated monthly commitment of the return to work credit within the pathways to work pilots

Period	Cost (£)
27 October 2003 to January 2004	1,090,320
February 2004	381,360
March 2004	601,440
April 2004	687,120
May 2004	801,360
June 2004	969,360
July 2004	1,019,760
August 2004	1,270,080
September 2004	1,349,040
October 2004	1,411,200
November 2004	1,464,960
December 2004	438,480
January 2005	866,880

Source:

DWP Pathways evaluation data

Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the UK were living in absolute poverty during the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* unemployed, *(c)* disabled and *(d)* others; and if he will make a statement. [918]

Margaret Hodge: Poverty is about more than low income, it is also about health, housing and the quality of environment.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994–95—2003–04'. The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The information is in the following table.

The number of individuals living in households with income less than the 60 per cent. of 1996–97 (GB) median income held constant in real terms, in 1996–97 and 2003–04

	Great Britain 1996–97	Great Britain 2003–04	United Kingdom 2003–04
Before housing costs			
Pensioners	2,200,000	1,100,000	1,200,000
In an unemployed family	1,800,000	700,000	700,000
In a family with at least one disabled adult	2,900,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
Others	4,600,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
After housing costs			
Pensioners	2,800,000	900,000	900,000
In an unemployed family	2,200,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
In a family with at least one disabled adult	3,900,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
Others	6,500,000	4,100,000	4,200,000

Notes:

1. Rows presented in the table are not mutually exclusive, for example an individual could be a pensioner and disabled.

2. 'Unemployed' describes a workless family where either the head, or spouse, is looking for work.

3. Disability is defined in line with the Disability Discrimination Act.

4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

5. Figures in the first two columns are for Great Britain and figures in the third column are for the United Kingdom.

6. 1996–97 figures are provided for comparison on a GB level along with consistent estimates for 2003–04. UK data for 1996–97 are not available as the Family Resources Survey was only extended to cover Northern Ireland in April 2002.

Source:

Family Resources Survey (FRS), 2003–04

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of children in the UK were living in poverty in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004; what research he has collated on rates in other developed countries; and if he will make a statement. [958]

Margaret Hodge: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in the latest publication of the 'Households Below Average Income 1994–95 to 2003–04'. The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The information is in the table.

Children living in households with income less than 60 per cent. of median income

	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
	Million	Percentage	Million	Percentage
Great Britain				
1996–97	3.2	25	4.2	33
2003–04	2.6	21	3.5	28
United Kingdom				
2003–04	2.7	20	3.6	28

Notes:

1. Figures are presented for Great Britain and the United Kingdom as figures for the UK are only available from 2002–03 onwards.

2. International comparisons are important because the Government aspire to be among the very best performers in Europe on child poverty—competing with the record of countries such as Sweden and Denmark. A focus on income before housing costs, as adopted in our spending review 2004 target, supports this as these are used across other European Union countries.

3. "Measuring child poverty", published in December 2003, compares findings with our European Union counterparts. It showed that the UK had the highest child poverty rate in Europe in 1999 (29 per cent.), but according to latest data for 2003, we are now closer to the EU average of (23 per cent.). European comparisons are made using data from the European Household Panel Study, and are not comparable with figures using the Family Resources Survey.

4. By 2020, we want to be comparable to the very best countries in the world. Where the UK had a child poverty rate on the UNICEF measure of 15.4 per cent. in 2004, Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) had rates of less than 5 per cent.

5. All publications listed are available in the Library.

Source:

Family Resources Survey

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of children living in poverty in the UK are living in a single parent household; and if he will make a statement. [959]

Margaret Hodge: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994–95 to 2003–04', which is available in the Library.

The threshold most commonly used in reporting trends in low income is 60 per cent. of contemporary median income. According to the latest data, in 2003–04, of those children living in households below this threshold, 38 per cent. were in a lone parent family when using a before housing costs measure and 42 per cent. when using an after housing costs measure.

Social Fund Pilot (Wales)

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what conclusions he has drawn from the recent pilot in Wales of a new operating model for the Social Fund. [2142]

Mr. Plaskitt: The pilot of the Social Fund Standard Operating Model began in December 2004 in Newport and Caerphilly and is currently being evaluated.

Sure Start

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what conditions the Sure Start maternity grant is paid; how many grants were paid out in each Government office region in each year since the start of the scheme; how much was paid out in total; and for what proportion of births it was paid. [3730]

Mr. Plaskitt: Sure Start maternity grant is payable to people, or partners of people, awarded income support, pension credit, income-based jobseeker's allowance, working tax credit (where the disability or severe disability element is included in the award) or child tax credit (where it is payable at a rate higher than the family element).

A claim may be made from the 29th week of pregnancy and up to three months after the baby is born. Claimants must have received advice from a health professional on the health and welfare needs of the child and, where a claim is made during pregnancy, maternal health.

The Sure Start maternity grant is also payable following adoption as long as the baby is not more than 12 months old and following the granting of a parental order in respect of a surrogate birth.

The available information is in the tables.

Sure Start maternity grants by region for 2004–05

Government office region	*Number of awards*
East of England	15,900
East Midlands	16,900
London	35,300
North East	12,800
North West	34,200
Scotland	19,100
South East	20,300
South West	16,300
Wales	13,400
West Midlands	26,600
Yorkshire and Humber	25,300

Sure Start maternity grants for Great Britain

	Number of awards	*Expenditure (£ million)*	*Approximate percentage of births for which a grant was paid*
2000–01	170,300	42.4	26
2001–02	201,400	61.2	32
2002–03	232,400	110.5	36
2003–04	237,800	120.4	[1]
2004–05	235,900	119.4	[1]

[1] Not yet available

Notes:

1. Sure Start Maternity Grants were introduced on 27 March 2000. The change from Maternity Payments was phased in gradually, with Sure Start Maternity Grants being available to claimants whose babies were expected, born, adopted or the subject of a parental order on or after 11 June 2000.
2. Data by Government office region (GOR) are not available for 2002–03 or 2003–04. Prior to 2002–03 a different district structure was in use.
3. Sure Start Maternity Grant awards are recorded in the GOR where they are administered. In 2004–05, a small area of the East Midlands GOR was administered for social fund purposes from a district within the North West GOR.
4. For a multiple birth, only one Sure Start Maternity Grant is awarded (with a payment being made for each baby). In the general population, the number of maternities resulting in twins is about 15 per 1,000 maternities (and triplets and higher order multiple births can be ignored). The number of babies for whom a Sure Start Maternity Grant was paid was estimated using this figure.
5. A claim for a Sure Start Maternity Grant can be made from the 29th week of pregnancy and up to three months after the baby is born. A grant paid in one year can therefore be for a birth in a different year.
6. The approximate percentage of births in a year for which a grant was paid is calculated as 100 x (the number of babies for whom a grant was paid in that year)/(the number of births in that year).
7. Numbers of awards are rounded to the nearest 100, expenditure to the nearest £0.1 million and the approximate percentage of births for which a grant was paid to the nearest whole number.
8. For 2004–05, the sum of the number of awards by GOR differs slightly from that for Great Britain due to rounding.

Sources:

Data on Sure Start Maternity Grants/Maternity Payments: DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Data on births: Office for National Statistics.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Concessionary TV Licences

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency are in receipt of the free television licence for over-75s. [5725]

James Purnell: TV Licensing, who administer free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over receiving the winter fuel payment in the Hornsey and Wood Green constituency in 2004–05 was approximately 4,025, according to Department for Work and Pensions records.

Historic Rail Bridges

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Department's policy is on seeking UNESCO status for historic rail bridges. [5653]

Mr. Lammy: For a site to be considered for inscription under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, it must first be included on a national tentative list of sites likely to be put forward by a State Party in future years. Railway structures were considered when the UK tentative list was revised in 1999 and the Forth Rail Bridge and the Great Western Railway were selected for inclusion.

Libraries (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff were employed on average in each library in London in each of the last five years. [5448]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held centrally. However, the following table shows the number of library staff in post across London as a whole for the past 5 years[1]. This information is drawn from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Public Library Statistics Actuals. The CIPFA statistics show totals for individual library authorities. Copies are held in the House Library.

[1] Rounded to the nearest whole number.

	Professional posts	*All other posts*	*Total*
1999–2000	1,189	2,691	3,880
2000–01	1,156	2,681	3,837
2001–02	1,143	2,691	3,834
2002–03	1,111	2,824	3,935
2003–04	1,089	2,705	3,794

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many hours on average public libraries in each local authority in London were open in each of the last five years. [5449]

Mr. Lammy: The table shows for all authorities across inner and outer London the aggregated average number of opening hours per week for the last five years available. This information is drawn from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Public Library Statistics Actuals. The CIPFA statistics show figures for individual library authorities. Copies are held in the House Library.

	Hours				
	60 and over	*45–59*	*30–44*	*10–29*	*Less than 10*
1999–2000	4	110	166	89	0
2000–01	10	108	163	83	0
2001–02	12	121	160	72	0
2002–03	17	139	149	56	1
2003–04	12	169	131	53	0

Licensing (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications were made for licences to sell alcohol in each London borough in each month since June 2004. [5267]

James Purnell: This information is not available to my Department.

Statistical data on applications for licences to sell alcohol have traditionally been collected at three yearly intervals (for the last year of each period) using statistics collated by court or petty session division rather than by borough or other local authority area.

The last exercise conducted was for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. As figures are not broken down by month it would not be possible to provide information on liquor licences from each petty sessional area in London for June 2004 without incurring disproportionate costs and no statistics are available from July 2004 onwards.

After the Licensing Act 2003 is fully implemented on 24 November, my Department will consider the adequacy of the present arrangements for collecting and collating central licensing statistics.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of licences to sell alcohol has been transferred to local authority licences in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* London. [5268]

James Purnell: My Department does not hold this information, which is not collected centrally.

Licensing authorities, which are in the main local authorities, are responsible for dealing with applications for converting existing justices' licences for the sale of alcohol into premises licences and club premises certificates. Licensing authorities are also fully responsible for administering and enforcing the new regime, and for collating information on applications received and dealt with.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

3G Mobile Phone Masts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money was raised by the Exchequer in auctioning 3G mobile phone mast licences. [5569]

Alun Michael: In April 2000 the Radiocommunications Agency raised £22.478 billion from an auction of five licences for radio spectrum to support the third generation of mobile telephones.

Further details can be found in the National Audit Office report 'The Auction of Radio Spectrum for the Third Generation of Mobile Telephones', published October 2001.

Carbon Capture Technology

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost of installing carbon capture technology in the UK's coal-fired power stations. [5126]

Malcolm Wicks: The cost of fitting carbon capture technology to coal-fired plant is estimated to be between £600 and £700 per kWt of installed capacity.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to assess carbon capture technology for the UK's coal-fired power stations. [5127]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government plans are set out in the Carbon Abatement Technology Strategy for Fossil Fuel Use announced on 14 June 2005 and which is available in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Scottish Affairs Select Committee on the underwriting of the cost of carbon capture technology being fitted to coal-fired power stations in the UK. [5178]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government will be responding to the committee's report shortly. The Carbon Abatement Technology Strategy for Fossil Fuel Use, announced on 14 June 2005, will examine possible measures to encourage the initial commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage technologies in the UK.

Coal Health Claims

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what safeguards have been put in place to protect the interests of his Department when a senior Irisc employee leaves to take up employment with a solicitor or claims handler. [2734]

Malcolm Wicks: No such safeguards have been put in place.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which Minister signed the *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease agreements on mining compensation with the claimants' solicitors group; and on what date. [5747]

Malcolm Wicks: Both agreements were signed by Nabarro Nathanson solicitors on behalf of the Department. The vibration white finger agreement was signed on 24 January 1999 and the respiratory disease agreement was signed on 22 September 1999.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 70W, on Coal Health Claims, on what date in 1999 the Minister for Energy and Industry approved in writing the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease agreement with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. [6057]

Malcolm Wicks: Ministerial approval for agreeing separate negotiations for the claims handling arrangements for respiratory disease with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) was given in December 1998. The terms of compensation are the same as for the Claims Handling Agreement with the claimants' solicitors group. Ministerial approval for signing the UDM agreement was given in November 1999.

Departmental Name

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the proposal to change the name of his Department cost in terms of *(a)* signage, *(b)* stationery and *(c)* literature. [1085]

Alan Johnson: Preliminary work was undertaken to meet the name change of the Department at an overall cost of £14,500. This was broken down into:

(a) Signage £7,500

(b) Design changes to stationery templates £4,000

(c) Literature including web site changes £3,000

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost was of *(a)* changing the title of the Department of Trade and Industry to the Department for Productivity, Energy and Industry and *(b)* reverting to the original title. [2689]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 304W.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of dispatchable electricity generation constituting the United Kingdom's electrical power portfolio he estimates will be obsolete by the year 2020; and what steps he is taking to encourage its replacement. [4960]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI's latest energy projections (http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/uep_addendum.pdf for information to 2020 and http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/uep2004.pdf for more detailed information for 2010) indicate that around 40 per cent. of current generating capacity may close by 2020. There are significant uncertainties attached to this estimate. Generating plants do not have fixed lifetimes and worldwide experience shows that significant increases in plant lifetime can be achieved through various means.

It is a matter for market participants to decide when and to what extent new generating capacity is constructed or existing capacity is refurbished with a view to prolonging lifetimes.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the proportion of the projected electrical generation fleet in 2020 that will be *(a)* gas-fired, *(b)* coal-fired, *(c)* nuclear powered, *(d)* oil fired and *(e)* powered by other sources. [4962]

Malcolm Wicks: Consistent with the most recent published projections http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/uep_addendum.pdf) estimated shares of generating capacity in 2020 are: gas 61 per cent. coal 13 per cent. nuclear 5 per cent. oil 2 per cent. and other 19 per cent.

Further information on energy projections is also available at the following website: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/uep2004.pdf

Mail Trains

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the reintroduction of mail trains; and on which routes they have been reintroduced. [5155]

Barry Gardiner: Decisions about Royal Mail's transport network are an operational matter for the company's board. The Government welcome Royal Mail's decision to reintroduce some rail use as part of its transport infrastructure.

I understand that Royal Mail has entered into a contract with GB Railfreight to provide services between London and Scotland. The chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member with more details.

MG Rover

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assistance is available to companies supplying MG Rover who are not located in the West Midlands; what assessment has been made of claims of retention of title made by Rover suppliers in respect of stock supplied to Rover; and what assistance is planned to be given to companies with such claims. [2742]

Ian Pearson: The support package for MG Rover suppliers was announced on 8 April 2005 and is available nationally, not just to those companies located within West Midlands. The assistance available includes short-term support for the wage costs of affected employees, loan finance for working capital and help with business planning. These services can be accessed via the Rover taskforce's supplier help line on 0121 607 0121. Details are also available at http://www.rover-response.info.

It is for individual companies to pursue retention of title claims with the administrators of MG Rover and Powertrain. Several suppliers have done this successfully. The Government have made no assessment of retention of title claims and there are no plans to do so.

In order for suppliers with valid claims to recover their property, it is necessary for the MG Rover distribution centre to be staffed and kept open. The cost is significant and the activity is of no benefit to MG Rover's creditors. The administrators are therefore unwilling to fund it and the Department, through the Rover taskforce, have agreed to meet the cost for a limited period so as to assist suppliers to reclaim their stock of components. This facility will be made available up to 23 June 2005.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at what time on Thursday 7 April the former Secretary of State were informed that MG Rover would be entering administration; in what way he was given that information; and by whom. [5862]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State received a telephone call from John Towers at 8.30 pm London time on April 7 informing her that MGR Directors had met and agreed to call in administrators and would be making a statement.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the additional costs, in p/kWh, which would be added to the price of electricity generated by nuclear power were full liability insurance to be required in respect of such generation. [5195]

Malcolm Wicks: It is most unlikely that unlimited liability insurance would be commercially available for such damage. No estimate of the cost has therefore been made.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost of electricity generated by nuclear power, in p/kWh, attributable to the costs of decommissioning liabilities. [5293]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not make estimates of the share of generation costs attributable to decommissioning liabilities.

British Energy makes payments into the Nuclear Liabilities Fund, which is underwritten by HMG, for the eventual decommissioning of its nuclear plant. Magnox decommissioning is part of the NDA's remit and incorporated in its planning process. Such proposals are set out in its annual plan for 2005–06. The plan for 2005–06 is available at the NDA website at www.nda.gov.uk.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the operation of section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 in relation to the building and extension of nuclear generation power stations in Scotland. [5108]

Malcolm Wicks: Significant development of any power station in Scotland, including all new plant above 50MW, requires consent from Scottish Executive Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Radioactive Leak (Thorp)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reason the leak of radioactive material from the Thorp Plant in August 2004 was not noticed until April 2005; how much radioactive material escaped during this period; and if he will make a statement. [4877]

Malcolm Wicks: The operator of THORP, British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd., identified the leakage of liquid on 19 April 2005 when a CCTV camera was introduced into the heavily shielded feed clarification cell in the THORP Head End Plant. Around 83 cubic metres of radioactive liquid had escaped from the cell into a fully enclosed stainless steel cell designed to safely contain such leakages. There has been no release of radioactivity from THORP and BNGSL is working to recover the liquid in a safe and controlled manner.

The results of British Nuclear Group's investigation suggests that the pipe may have started to fail in August 2004 and that complete failure of the pipe may have occurred in mid-January 2005. Opportunities such as cell sampling and level measurements were missed which would have shown that the material was escaping to secondary containment. BNG's investigation has made

recommendations to improve the maintenance, testing and reliability of cell instrumentation and other systems that give indications of plant abnormality. BNG has acknowledged that the indications that the pipe was leaking were not acted upon quickly enough.

A separate independent investigation by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is considering both technical issues and broader safety culture and management of nuclear safety issues, and this will provide the basis for any subsequent enforcement actions.

Renewables Target

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost of meeting the renewables obligation per tonne of carbon dioxide saved under the 2010 renewables target. [4954]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Audit Report on Renewable Energy published in February this year estimated the figure for the cost of carbon dioxide saved by reaching the renewables obligation target would equate to £70 per tonne.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the quantity of carbon dioxide emissions that would be saved by successful attainment of the 2010 renewables target; and what proportion of total *(a)* UK and *(b)* world carbon dioxide emissions the quantity saved would constitute. [4955]

Malcolm Wicks: Providing 10 per cent. of electricity consumption from renewable energy would save about 2.5 million tonnes of carbon per year in 2010 if the equivalent were generated from gas. This equates to a saving of 1.5 per cent. on 1990 emission levels. The reduction is expected to be about 0.02 per cent. of projected world emissions in 2010.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department's latest estimate is of the reduction in global temperature increase that would be achieved from successful attainment of the Government's 2010 renewables target. [4957]

Malcolm Wicks: The reduction in global temperatures achieved by successful attainment of the Government's renewables target is not directly calculable. The target forms part of an overall package of policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions which, along with the actions taken by other countries, is intended to avoid dangerous climate change.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what quantity of carbon dioxide he estimates will be saved per mega watt hour of electricity generated from *(a)* wind and *(b)* landfill gas for each year until 2010. [4958]

Malcolm Wicks: The level of carbon emissions saved from generation through wind or landfill gas depends on the assumption made about the alternative generation displaced. The emissions factors associated with coal and gas-fired generation are shown in the following table.

Generating station displaced	*Emissions saving per megawatt hour (grammes of carbon)*
Existing coal	0.247
Existing gas	0.111
New gas	0.1

Note:
To convert from carbon to carbon dioxide multiply by 44/12

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Government's 2010 target for renewable electricity is; which sources of generation are eligible to constitute that target; and whether the target refers to *(a)* total electricity generated and *(b)* amount supplied to final consumers. [4959]

Malcolm Wicks: We have set a target of 10 per cent. of the UK's electricity supply to be generated from renewable sources eligible under the Renewables Obligation by 2010 with the aspiration to increase that contribution to 20 per cent. by 2020.

All sources of renewables are eligible under the Renewables Obligation with the exception of large-scale Hydro (over 20 MW DNC) and energy from waste incineration (that does not use advanced Conversion Techniques).

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what level of capacity credit is assigned by his Department to non-dispatchable renewables in 2020. [4961]

Malcolm Wicks: Decisions as to the fuel choice for new capacity are a matter which we believe is best left to the market, where investors are well placed to assess the available information about the level and accessibility of remaining global reserves.

We would expect the market to continue to anticipate, and respond to, the need to replace that capacity.

Royal Mail (Recorded Deliveries)

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for how long Royal Mail is obliged to keep records of recorded deliveries despatched to residential customers. [5179]

Barry Gardiner: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. The Chief Executive has been asked to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

CABINET OFFICE

London Olympic Bid

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what dates the Cabinet Committee on the London Olympic Bid has met in the last two years and who attended each meeting. [3578]

Mr. Hutton: Although the Government publish the title, membership and terms of reference of cabinet committees, it has been the practice of successive governments not to disclose details of their proceedings, including the dates they meet.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Building Repair

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of the sum allocated for the renovation of further education colleges in the last Budget has been spent. [5398]

Bill Rammell: The £1.5 billion budget covers the years 2005–06 to 2009–10. The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for providing capital grant support towards the costs of colleges' capital investment programmes. In the year ending 31 April 2006 it should incur expenditure of £183 million on further education and 16–19 capital projects of which £37 million had been paid to the end of May. The LSC estimates that its capital expenditure in the full year should trigger over £600 million of investment by colleges.

Carers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures have been taken to improve facilities for schools to respond to the needs of young carers in the last five years. [4625]

Maria Eagle: The Government's National Strategy for Carers "Caring for Carers" set specific commitments to improve support for young carers. The strategy recognises schools as playing a key role in identifying young carers.

The Department promotes awareness of young carers' needs through specific references in personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship curriculum frameworks; the standards for qualified teacher status; and departmental bullying guidance.

The DfES Standards Fund Vulnerable Children Grant was introduced in the 2003–04 financial year to help local education authorities to ensure that vulnerable children have access to high quality education. Young carers are one of the eight key groups that the grant is designed to help. The grant was worth a total of £84 million, on a matched funding basis, in the financial years 2003–04 and 2004–05. £84 million is also available in the current financial year 2005–06. It is for local authorities to decide how to use the grant.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are benefiting from the carers special grant. [4626]

Maria Eagle: The carers grant was introduced in 1999 and since then has provided an extra £450 million over the past five years, to increase the number of breaks for carers. The grant is worth £185 million in the current financial year, and will continue at this level until the financial year 2007–08 at least. Of this amount, 20 per cent. has been earmarked at a national level each year for children's services, including young carers. Information is not collected centrally about the numbers of children benefiting from the grant.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate she has made of the number of child carers who care for a relative with a mental illness; [4650]

(2) how many assessments of carer needs have been carried out, broken down by carer age groups, since the introduction of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000; [4462]

(3) what estimate she has made of the number of young carers; [4464]

(4) what percentage of young carers have been assessed for their ability to provide for the person they care for. [4465]

Maria Eagle: Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities with responsibilities for children's social services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area, through the provision of services appropriate to the needs of such children, and as far as is consistent with this, to promote the upbringing of children within their families.

The Department for Education and Skills does not collect information on assessments made by local authorities under the 1989 Children Act, in specific relation to the numbers of children in need who are young carers, or about those who are young carers because their parents have mental health problems. Neither does the Department collect information about young carers' ability to provide for the person they care for. The 2001 census recorded a total of 149,942 young carers aged 17 and under.

The following table shows the estimated number of carer assessments and reviews, from 2000–01 to 2003–04 inclusive, made principally under the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000.

It is not possible to disaggregate the figures for the under 18 category.

Number of carers assessed or reviewed: England

	All ages	*Under 18*	*18–64*	*65–74*	*75 and over*	*Age not known*
2000–01	194,900	1,500	41,800	16,800	25,200	109,400
2001–02	242,800	2,900	75,600	30,200	55,200	79,000
2002–03	286,900	6,400	99,100	39,600	72,700	69,100
2003–04[1]	350,400	7,900	135,200	53,300	100,200	53,800

[1] The carers return was defined in 2003–04 to include carers assessed or reviewed.

Note:
Data for previous years refer to assessments only.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when Ministers from her Department last met representatives from young carers' organisations. [4651]

Maria Eagle: Lord Filkin, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, met with young people from the Children's Society Young Carers Initiative in January.

Connexions Service

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the Connexions Service. [5935]

Maria Eagle: Proposals for Connexions and the future delivery of services for 13 to 19-year-olds will be set out in a Youth Green Paper which we intend to publish in due course.

EU Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) under what circumstances higher education institutions in England would be obliged to award financial support for maintenance purposes to EU students if the support is fee-related from 2006; [3113]

(2) whether there are circumstances in which the terms used to describe bursary or financial support would make higher education institutions in England liable to make support available to EU students from 2006. [3098]

Bill Rammell: My Department does not give advice on the legal obligations of higher education institutions in running their affairs. Institutions take their own decisions on what bursaries or financial support they offer to their students, and are responsible for remaining within the law.

Every Child Matters

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which of the agencies her Department funds have the responsibility under Every Child Matters to break the link between social exclusion and behavioural problems of children in early years education. [5420]

Beverley Hughes: The Sure Start, Extended Schools and Families Group in the Department has the responsibility for delivering the Every Child Matters Change for Children Programme in relation to children in their early years. The aim is to create a joined-up system of health, family support, child care and education services so that every child gets the best start in life. The planned development of 3,500 Sure Start children's centres by 2010 will be a key part of this, enabling early identification of potential problems for the child and providing families with appropriate support they need.

Research evidence, such as the Department's Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) study, shows a link between social deprivation and the risk of poor social and behavioural development in the early years. It is also known from research that quality pre-school education and child care, and the importance of the home environment have a positive effect on children's social and emotional development in the early years and into primary school.

To respond to this research we are funding a number of programmes to raise the quality of early years education. All providers of Government funded early education for children aged three to five are required to provide the Foundation Stage part of the National Curriculum. Personal, social and emotional development is a key area of learning and children are supported to understand what is right, what is wrong and why; and to consider the consequences of their words and actions for themselves and others. The Foundation Stage guidance indicates that practitioners should involve children in agreeing codes of behaviour and taking responsibility for their implementation.

The Department has appointed the Institute of Psychology, King's College London to develop a training programme to support practitioners on young children's personal social and emotional development to support the Birth to Three Matters and Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage documents. The materials will help providers support children develop respect for others, social competence and a positive disposition to learn.

The Department's Parental Community Support Project aims to support parents in supporting their children's early learning and development—improving educational, health, social and emotional outcomes for children in 500 communities. The project will identify and disseminate existing effective practice in engaging with parents, creating effective intervention models to increase parents' engagement with their children's early learning, and creating effective links between local settings and parents. A key part of the project will be to train front line staff working with children and parents.

In recognition of the importance of young children starting to develop good social skills in their earliest years of life the Department has a PSA target to improve children's communication, social and emotional development and to reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 20 per cent. most disadvantaged areas and the rest of England.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment her Department has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of On Track and *(b)* its incorporation into the Children's Fund within the Every Child Matters strategy. [5053]

Beverley Hughes: The formal evaluation of On Track is still in progress with the final report due in December 2006. This report will look at the effectiveness of On Track and provide evidence about how it has contributed to delivering the Every Child Matters outcomes. It will also explore how On Track is positioned as part of the Children's Fund and within the broader preventative agenda.

Evidence from Phase 1 of the evaluation suggests that On Track has been effective in tackling a range of known individual, family and school based risk factors for children and young people linked to later involvement in crime. The programme has had a positive impact on both children and adults especially in improving their confidence and self-esteem. Children are more resilient, and more likely to be in positive peer groups; families exhibit greater stability and more affectionate relationships. This has led to reductions in school absences, temporary exclusions and nuisance behaviour among the children and young people involved in the On Track programme.

Extended School Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what restrictions apply to the bodies from which local education authorities can commission extended school services; and if she will make a statement. [5922]

Beverley Hughes: It will be for individual local authorities and schools to decide what partners they need to commission to support the development of extended services in schools. We have not put in place any restrictions. We envisage a strong role for the voluntary and private sectors in delivering extended services in partnership with schools, particularly for services such as child care. The services developed in schools will complement and join up with other services and providers where they are already in place. Written agreements will underpin any commissions awarded to providers to ensure that issues such as health and safety are addressed.

GCSEs (London)

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the reasons for the change in performance in GCSE examinations in inner London local education authorities over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [5142]

Jacqui Smith: For the first time in history, the 2004 GCSE results for state schools in London overtook the national average. We know that the single most important factor in the control of the education service in changing how well children do is the quality of the teaching that they experience. The quality of school leadership is the most important factor in determining how well a school is able to promote effective teaching. And the quality of local support for school improvement is the biggest external influence on the effective leadership and management of schools.

A range of factors are therefore significant. First, the focused attention of teachers, heads and LEAs on improving the quality of teaching and learning has been critical. Second, Ofsted identifies this generation of teachers as the best ever and strong improvements in teacher supply have been disproportionately beneficial in London, since times of shortage affect London most. There are now 63,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers in London, compared to 58,300 in 2001. Third, the quality of leadership in London's schools is now identified by Ofsted as being better than the national average. Fourth, local education authorities play a crucial role in supporting school improvement, and we have seen their capacity to do so improve over the past five years. In 2004 20 London authorities were rated 'excellent' or 'good' in the comprehensive performance assessment (compared to 13 in 2002) and no authorities were rated 'poor' (compared to 4 in 2002).

National programmes have contributed to supporting this improvement. Excellence in Cities has provided focused support and very significant resources in London, as in other urban areas across the country. Intervention in those local education authorities which were failing has contributed to bringing in to those authorities the people and resources which have enabled them to be effective.

The London Challenge, which began in 2002, has sought to focus national programmes and get behind the efforts of all those who seek to raise standards in London. Through both targeted and pan-London work, it has sought to support teachers, leaders and local authorities in their work for raising the achievement of young people and creating a world-class education system.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in her Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if she will make a statement. [4128]

Maria Eagle: The breakdown of information regarding users is not available. Laptops are used by 1,629 members of the Department for Education and Skills. No laptops were lost and the following table shows the number of laptops reported as stolen since 1 January 1996.

	Number of laptops	*Approximate value per item (£)*	*Total approximate value (£)*
1996	6	1,000	6,000
1997	5	1,000	5,000
1998	7	1,000	7,000
1999	5	1,000	5,000
2000	2	1,000	2,000
2001	3	1,000	3,000
2002	0	0	0
2003	8	1,326.58	10,612.64
2004	4	1,326.58	5,306

Literacy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of literacy levels among 11-year-olds in *(a)* Manchester, Blackley, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England. [5732]

Jacqui Smith: The 2004 results show that standards in primary schools are improving again. In English the percentage of 11-year-olds achieving the target level 4 of the national curriculum increased by (percentage) points to 78 per cent.

Standards in primary schools in the *(a)* Manchester, Blackley, constituency, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* Greater Manchester have also improved. A summary of the 2004 outcomes compared to 2003 is set out in the table.

Information on education and skills by constituency is made available by the Department through the 'In Your Area' website, available at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea

2004 Key Stage 2 English (achievement at Level 4 and above) compared to 2003

Percentage

	2003 results	*2004 results*	*Percentage point increase*
Manchester, Blackley	70	71	+1
Manchester	68	71	+3
Greater Manchester	73	77	+4
England	75	78	+3

Parenting Programmes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what financial support her Department has provided for parenting programmes in 2005–06; and what parenting programmes her Department has funded in each local education authority area. [5054]

Maria Eagle: The Department has made available £4.97 million through the Strengthening Families Grant to voluntary and community sector providing family and relationship support for the financial year 2005–06. We expect to announce successful applicants shortly. We also have made £16.4 million available to the sector from 2004–06 through the Parenting Fund (administered by the National Family and Parenting Institute).

Proposals for family and relationship support funding are sought from across England and grants are awarded on the basis of merit and adherence to published grant criteria. Information on the distribution of parenting programmes by local education authority is not requested or held.

Pre/after-school Clubs

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the funds allocated for breakfast and after-school clubs will be allocated to Northern Ireland. [5957]

Beverley Hughes: The funding announced on Monday 13 June to support extended services, including breakfast and after school clubs, has been allocated to all local authorities in England. Funding arrangements in Northern Ireland are dealt with separately by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what activities the proposed after-school clubs will offer; [6044]

(2) how the after school club scheme will be funded; what mechanisms will be put in place to audit the spending of the relevant funds; and what additional services will be provided from the funding provided direct to schools; [6045]

(3) what steps she will take to ensure that teaching staff do not experience increased workload from the proposed after-school club scheme. [6046]

Beverley Hughes: Though the development of extended schools, we want children and young people to be able to access a wide range of interesting activities such as homework clubs, sport, music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs such as chess and first aid courses, visits to museums and galleries, foreign language tuition, volunteering, or business and enterprise activities. It will be up to schools in consultation with parents to develop activities that will best meet the needs of their children. The Department for Education and Skills' Extended Schools Prospectus' sets out the Government's expectation of a core set of extended services, including after school activities, that we want to see in or accessible through all schools by 2010.

The funding for local authorities announced on 13 June is to help 'kick-start' extended services, such as after school clubs. Funding was also announced to be directly distributed to schools. Overtime, in order to ensure that schools can make a sustainable all year round offer of extended services to families they will need to establish realistic costing and charging arrangements.

Local authorities will allocate funding to schools to develop extended services taking into account factors such as existing services in the community and levels of deprivation. Funding released to schools on that basis should be spent in accordance with that agreement. Local authorities already audit public funds spent by schools. Any additional funding provided for extended schools will fall within this existing audit regime.

It will be for individual schools to determine, in consultation with parents and young people, the focus of the funding provided directly to schools but it has been provided to help schools develop and sustain extended services.

There is no expectation that teachers will deliver extended services, nor is it necessary for head teachers to be responsible for their management. The funding made available can be used flexibly to support whatever barriers schools might face in developing extended services. This can include, for example, appointing a manager who works across a cluster of schools to develop extended services and hence ease any burden on existing school staff. The National Remodelling Team will take a lead role in supporting schools on the development of extended services and will provide schools with the support they need to ensure that services develop in way that is consistent with the tenets of school workforce reform.

Pupil Suspensions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what powers head teachers have *(a)* to search and *(b)* to suspend pupils at (i) state secondary schools and (ii) private schools if they suspect a pupil of carrying any form of weapon on school premises. [5826]

Jacqui Smith: State and independent school head teachers can search a desk or locker without the pupil's consent, search a bag or jacket with consent, or ask the police to do a personal search. Proposals in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill would give all schools additional powers to search outer clothing and belongings without consent, where they reasonably suspect an offensive weapon is being carried. State school head teachers can permanently exclude a child for carrying an offensive weapon, even on a first offence, and appeal panels

should not normally reinstate such pupils. Private school proprietors draw up their own discipline policies and decide what sanctions the head teacher can impose.

Special Needs Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what account local authorities take of social class in assessing applications for special needs educational assistance. [5129]

Maria Eagle: Local authorities do not take account of social class as an indicator of the need for special educational needs (SEN) support. On request from parents or schools, local authorities are under a duty, where necessary, to assess children's SEN and draw up statements which set out the provision to meet those needs. The Education (Special Educational Needs) (England) (Consolidation) Regulations 2001 require local authorities when making assessments of a child's SEN to seek advice from the social services authority as to the educational, medical, psychological or other features of the case which appear to be relevant to the child's educational needs and how those features could affect the child's educational needs. The local authority would have to take account of any relevant advice from the social services authority concerning a child's family and social situation, rather than the child's social class, when making an assessment.

Special Schools

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) when the Government's audit of special schools began; and when it is expected to conclude; [4760]

(2) what account will be taken of the views of parents in the Government's audit of special schools; [4761]

(3) who will conduct the Government's audit of special schools; what the terms of reference are; and if she will make a statement. [4764]

Maria Eagle: The National Audit of Low Incidence Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, services and provision commenced on 1 February 2005. The audit is due to report back to the Department early January 2006.

The Special Needs Consultancy is undertaking the audit on behalf of the Department. The audit will take into account the views of education, social care, health and the voluntary and private sectors. The aims of the audit are

- Establish how local authorities meet the needs of the children in their authority with low incidence SEN.
- Explore gaps in services, support and provision, and how these gaps can be/are being addressed.
- Use the above to support and inform policy and practice development for regional and local planning and provision so that more pupils have their needs met locally.
- Help develop thinking around Regional Centres of Expertise.
- Identify local, regional and national centres of good practice and expertise, especially those with the potential for enhancing their role to provide advice and/or support to schools.

It is not the intention to survey schools or parents at this stage, the audit will predominantly seek the views in each local authority area of those sectors and groups involved in the delivery of SEN support services and provision.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will impose a moratorium on the closure of special schools until the Government's audit have been completed. [4762]

Maria Eagle: The National Audit of Low Incidence Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, services and provision commenced on 1 February 2005. The audit is due to report back to the Department early January 2006.

The Special Needs Consultancy is undertaking the audit on behalf of the Department. The audit will take into account the views of education, social care, health and the voluntary and private sectors. The aims of the audit are:

- Establish how local authorities meet the needs of the children in their authority with low incidence SEN.
- Explore gaps in services, support and provision, and how these gaps can be/are being addressed.
- Use the above to support and inform policy and practice development for regional and local planning and provision so that more pupils have their needs met locally.
- Help develop thinking around Regional Centres of Expertise.
- Identify local, regional and national centres of good practice and expertise, especially those with the potential for enhancing their role to provide advice and/or support to schools.

Special schools provision of reorganisations or closures is a matter for local decision.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the review of provision of special schools will take evidence from *(a)* Baroness Warnock and *(b)* other experts. [4763]

Maria Eagle: We published the "Report of the Special Schools Working Group" in 2003 which contained a number of specific proposals and recommendations which would allow special schools to develop their role within the wider schools framework. The Group's recommendations are contained in our SEN strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement". One of the recommendations of the Group was for the Department to carry out a National Audit of low Incidence SEN Specialist support services and provision in order to promote effective regional and sub-regional planning to meet the needs of children with low incidence needs.

The National Audit of Low Incidence Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, services and provision commenced on 1 February 2005. The audit is due to report back to the Department early January 2006. The audit will predominantly seeking the views in leach local authority area of those sectors and groups involved in the delivery of SEN support services and provision.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Arms Sales (Sudan)

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is towards the application made by Belarus to the UN Sanctions Committee seeking permission to sell arms to Sudan. [4924]

Dr. Howells: There have been no applications to the relevant UN Sanctions Committee seeking permission to sell arms to Sudan. The Government of Belarus have sought clarification on the scope of the UN arms embargo against Sudan, which has been provided by the Chairman of the UN Sudan Sanctions Committee.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the forced deportations of Uzbek asylum seekers by the Kyrgyz Government; and if he will make a statement. [4986]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Our ambassador, accredited to Kyrgyzstan, visited the country from the 6–8 June. He was assured by the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister and the Chairman of the National Security Council that Kyrgyzstan would honour its commitments to the refugees under international law. He also spoke to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representatives in Kyrgyzstan about the refugee situation. The Acting President of Kyrgyzstan reassured the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe on 30 May that Kyrgyzstan would make all efforts necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of refugees and to comply with relevant international commitments. The handing over of four refugees to the Andizhan prosecutor on 9 June appears to be a clear, and deeply regrettable, breach of those commitments.

During his visit our ambassador publicly emphasised the importance of involving the UNHCR in the process of determining the future of the refugees. The involvement of UNHCR is essential to ensure that Kyrgyzstan meets its international obligations. On 13 June the conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the EU called on the Kyrgyz to respect these international commitments. This message was reinforced again by an EU statement at the OSCE on 16 June. Our EU partners and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Baltic Ferry

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the UK signed the 1995 Estonia Agreement preventing exploration of the wreck of the Baltic Ferry, Estonia; and if he will make a statement. [4878]

Ian Pearson: The purpose of the 1995 Estonia Agreement was to protect the final place of rest of the 852 people who died when the MS Estonia sank. The UK acceded to the agreement in 1999, consistent with our role as a leading maritime power and our friendly relations with Sweden, Finland and Estonia, who were the original contracting parties to the agreement. Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia have also acceded to the agreement.

Bio-contamination

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are being taken by UK embassies and consulates to protect employees against bio-contamination through the post. [5827]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has issued guidance to all its missions overseas on the handling of potentially dangerous contaminants received through the post and advises them to practice drills on dealing with such incidents in conjunction with the local authorities. All suspicious parcels and letters should be scanned prior to opening and staff are advised to use medical standard face masks and latex gloves when handling such mail.

FCO overseas security advisers advise on the positioning of mail rooms and sorting facilities to ensure that they are located outside general working areas. Any suspicious mail is then isolated to avoid wider contamination. Missions are also advised to hold, or have ready access to, stocks of prescribed antibiotics so they can be administered quickly to staff.

The FCO is aware of the limitations of scanning equipment to detect possible contaminants and, in conjunction with Government research groups, is seeking more effective methods of detecting such threats.

Caribbean Terrorism

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Venezuelan and *(b)* US Government concerning the activities of terrorists in the Caribbean region. [5683]

Dr. Howells: We hold regular discussions with a number of Governments on global counter terrorism issues, including with the United States and Venezuela.

Civil Service

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in his Department in 2004–05. [4546]

Mr. Straw: In the pre-Budget report 2004, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer reported Office of Government Commerce (OGC) value for money gains in central civil government procurement for 2003–04 of £2 billion. OGC value for money procurement gains for 2004–05 are being calculated and will be published in the 2005 Treasury Autumn Performance report. Final figures for value for money procurement savings for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are still being drawn together for submission to the OGC, but indications are that these will be in excess of £2.9 million.

In the 2005 Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a

gross reduction of 84,000 civil service and administrative posts by 2008. Under its efficiency plans, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to reduce staffing levels by 313 by 1 April 2008. The roll-out of a new database over the period in question makes exact comparisons difficult, but excluding staff paid for by fee income, we estimate staff numbers have declined by about 50 between April 2004 and April 2005.

Colombia

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the population displacement caused by violence in south-western Colombia. [4983]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Our embassy in Bogota reports regularly on internally displaced people (IDPs) in Colombia, and discusses the situation with the Colombian authorities, the UN and NGOs. Given the nature of the issue, it is very difficult to put a completely accurate figure on the number of IDPs. Statistics provided by the Government of Columbia and unofficial statistics differ slightly, but the figures are in the region of 3 million people internally displaced. This humanitarian crisis has arisen as a direct result of the internal armed conflict in Colombia. Recent years have shown a marked decline in numbers of newly displaced people, although the overall figure of internally displaced people as a whole continues to rise, as the security forces made some headway against the illegally armed groups. Government of Colombia figures for 2003 and 2004 for new displacements are 219,469 and 137,315 respectively. But the situation is still critical and more needs to be done to address the issue. South-West Colombia, where the security forces are making a concerted push against the illegal armed groups, is particularly affected.

Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter dated 1 February from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding the Diplomatic Bag Service. [1183]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I replied to the hon. Member's letter on 6 June 2005.

Cote d'Ivoire

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the killing of civilians in the western Côte d'Ivoire town of Duékoué. [4985]

Ian Pearson: We are extremely concerned by events around Duékoué, including the deaths of over 50 people and the displacement of up to 8,000 civilians, and the continuing unrest in the west of Côte d'Ivoire. Together with our European Union partners we have called on all parties to the Ivorian conflict to promote calm, ensure there is no recurrence of these tragic events and keep to the timetable set for disarmament and demobilisation.

Cyprus

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the UN Security Council's recommendation to extend the mandate of peacekeeping forces in Cyprus. [4979]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We welcome the UN Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of peacekeeping forces in Cyprus. We also commend the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for its swift and successful implementation of many of the changes to its force strength and structure which were authorised in UN Security Council Resolution 1568 (2004) to take account of changes in the political context and physical changes on the ground. We are encouraged that the situation along the Green Line remains calm and that crossings have taken place frequently. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's commitment to keep the operations of UNFICYP under close review and to revert to the Security Council in the event that major changes are warranted.

Sudan

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his estimate is of the number of African Union troops required to secure Darfur; and how many there are at present. [4926]

Ian Pearson: The African Union (AU) led an assessment mission to Darfur in March this year to look at the AU force's performance. Military experts from the EU, UN, UK, US and Canada participated in this mission. On the recommendations of the assessment team, the AU decided to expand its mission in Darfur to over 7,700 personnel in order to fulfil its current mandate and to provide a secure environment throughout the region. The UK welcomed this decision, and has allocated £19 million to support the expansion. This brings our total support to the AU mission to almost £32 million.

At present, the AU has deployed almost 2,700 of the planned 3,320 staff for its mission. The shortfall is mainly due to delays in identifying and deploying suitable police officers. Our understanding is that approximately 460 police are deployed (out of a mandated 815). Efforts to close the gap continue.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to implement the UN Security Council resolution of 29 March to freeze the assets and restrict the travel movements of the architects of the genocide in Darfur. [4927]

Dr. Howells: The Government have fully implemented the obligations in Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005) in the United Kingdom, the overseas territories and Crown dependencies. It has made the necessary provisions for the assets freeze and travel ban to be applied to individuals who will be designated by the committee, including individuals that have committed violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or other atrocities.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the first indictments to be handed down to the alleged perpetrators identified by the International Criminal Court on war crimes in Darfur. [4970]

Ian Pearson: Following a preliminary examination, the prosecutor of the international criminal court announced, on 6 June, his intention to open a formal investigation into the situation in Darfur.

The court will carry out its investigations in Darfur, as elsewhere, in an entirely independent capacity. The timing of the indictments, like the names and numbers of those to be investigated or prosecuted, is solely within the prosecutor's discretion.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the estimate made by the UN's Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs of the numbers of people that would die every month in Darfur if insecurity led to humanitarian organisations suspending their operations there. [4992]

Ian Pearson: Jan Egeland estimated in March that 10,000 Sudanese civilians were dying each month in Darfur. Estimates of deaths in Darfur vary from 70,000 to 300,000 and above. Accurate figures are not available and, even though the World Health Organisation is undertaking a second crude mortality survey, it will only give a snapshot of the situation. We are unlikely ever to get a full and wholly accurate picture of deaths from this conflict.

There are 2.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Darfur and many of these would be put at great risk if humanitarian operations were suspended by any organisation for reasons of insecurity. This is why the Government fully supported the African Union's (AU) decision to increase their troop numbers from 3,000 to 7,700 and why the Government recently announced a further £19 million in funding to the AU mission in Darfur. This brings the UK's total funding to the AU to almost £32 million.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn), reaffirmed to the Government of Sudan during his recent visit that NGOs must be allowed to operate freely and without harassment.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria he used to decide whether the situation in Darfur constituted genocide. [5029]

Dr. Howells: There is no doubt that violations of international humanitarian and human rights law have been committed in Darfur. We have consistently made clear that the perpetrators of these terrible crimes must be brought to justice.

The UK applies the definition of genocide given in the International Criminal Court Act 2001. Under the Act, "genocide" is defined by reference to Article 6 of the Rome Statute, as certain acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.

With regard to Sudan, the UK did not have sufficient evidence to judge whether the acts were undertaken with the intent necessary to constitute genocide.

For this reason, we pressed strongly for the establishment of an expert International Commission of Inquiry (ICI) by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to investigate the reports of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Darfur in 2004, and to determine whether genocide had occurred. The ICI's report, issued to the Security Council on 31 January 2005, concluded that the Government of Sudan did not appear to have pursued a policy of genocide in Darfur and that, while individuals may have done so, this was a determination which only a competent court could make. The conclusion that no genocidal policy had been pursued by the Government in no way detracted from the gravity of the crimes committed including crimes against humanity and/or war crimes. Following this, the UK played a leading role in sponsoring UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005) of 31 March, in which the Security Council referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC)—as recommended by the ICI. The prosecutor of the ICC announced a formal investigation on 6 June.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the two sides involved in the Darfur crisis to clarify which countries should be involved in the mediation process. [5048]

Ian Pearson: We fully support the African Union (AU) mediation in the Darfur peace talks in Abuja, and welcome the appointment of Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim as AU Special Envoy to the talks. We are pressing the Government of Sudan, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement to co-operate fully with the AU mediation, and to work in good faith to achieve a political resolution of the conflict.

A number of international observers are also present at the talks, at the invitation of the AU, including a UK representative who is ready to provide support and advice, as required, to the mediation team and the parties.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects a new Senior Special Envoy to Sudan to be appointed to support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Darfur Peace Process. [1638]

Ian Pearson: Mr. Alan Goulty was appointed as the UK special representative for Darfur on 13 June. He will support the efforts to achieve a durable political settlement of the Darfur conflict.

Mr. Goulty has an unparalleled knowledge of Sudan, deriving from his previous appointments as British ambassador to Khartoum, Director for the Middle East and North Africa in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and, from 2002 to 2004, as the United Kingdom's special representative for Sudan. He played a key role in the successful negotiations of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended the 21 year civil war in Sudan. He will perform his new role in addition to his current responsibilities as British ambassador to Tunis.

This appointment underlines the UK's continuing commitment to achieving lasting peace throughout Sudan, including in Darfur.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the need for a peace-enforcement mandate for the African Union mission in Darfur. [1688]

Ian Pearson: The African Union (AU) led an assessment mission to Darfur in March to look at the AU force's performance. Military experts from the EU, UN, UK, US and Canada participated in this mission. It found that the AU's mandate was sufficient to promote peace and security in the region, but that more troops were needed to deliver it effectively.

On the recommendations of the assessment mission, the AU has decided to expand its mission in Darfur to over 7,700 personnel. It has also said that, within its existing mandate, the expanded mission will focus more on the provision of security. The increased number of troops will allow it to do this, and we are therefore working to support the AU in getting them deployed and fully operational as quickly as possible.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the benefit to *(a)* the Government of Sudan and *(b)* the people of Darfur that will result from the oil contract between Cliveden Petroleum Sudan Ltd. and the Government of Sudan; [4514]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of the oil contract between Cliveden Petroleum Sudan Ltd. and the Government of Sudan for the *(a)* credibility and *(b)* effectiveness of UK foreign policy towards Sudan. [4560]

Ian Pearson: We are aware of reports that Cliveden Petroleum Sudan Ltd., as part of a wider oil exploration group, have been granted a concession to explore for oil in Darfur. We have no further details.

Following signature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9 January 2005, all future oil contracts will be decided by the National Petroleum Commission (NPC), which will include representatives from oil producing regions. Under the terms of the CPA, the local, as well as national, interests of the population will guide the utilisation of oil. Local communities will have the right to participate in the development of oil from their areas, through their respective states/regions, and shall share in the benefits of that development. But for the full benefits of a peace dividend to be realised, the parties must achieve a political resolution for Darfur. To this end, we are pressing the Government of Sudan and the rebels to reach agreement in Abuja, consistent with the principles of power and wealth sharing as set down in the CPA. A UK observer is present at the talks.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the Government of Sudan to end its suspension of the Khartoum Monitor. [5049]

Ian Pearson: On 21 May 2005 the Sudanese authorities suspended the publication of the English language daily newspaper, Khartoum Monitor, allegedly because of its coverage of the clashes in the Soba Aradi camp on 18 May. Our ambassador in Khartoum made strong representations on this matter to the Government of Sudan on 21 May.

On 12 June the Khartoum Monitor had its license revoked by the Press Council General Secretary. An appeal against the decision has been launched. We have since made further representations to the Government of Sudan. We regularly press the Sudanese authorities on the need to provide full press freedom and freedom of expression, which is enshrined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the outbreaks of violence in eastern villages of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [4984]

Ian Pearson: We remain concerned by the level of violence in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Many Congolese and foreign armed groups continue to prey on the local population. Poorly-paid and indisciplined Congolese army soldiers are part of the problem.

Despite the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC) disarming around 13,000 militiamen since April, armed groups in Ituri remain a threat to civilians and attack MONUC patrols.

Rwandan Hutu rebels continue to perpetrate serious human rights abuses in the Kivu provinces. We continue to press the Congolese and Rwandan Governments to work together with MONUC towards disarming these groups.

Diplomats

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many ambassadors he has appointed since 1 March. [381]

Mr. Straw: Since 1 March five ambassadors, six high commissioners and three governors of Overseas Territories have been appointed. Some of these appointments are public, others not yet.

Ethiopia

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Ethiopian Government on recent events in Addis Ababa; and if he will make a statement. [5013]

Ian Pearson: On 8 June 2005 my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Lord Triesman of Tottenham made a statement stressing the Government's alarm at the reported loss of life and calling on all parties to take responsibility, reach consensus on the investigation of complaints about the electoral process and respect constitutionally established law. We welcome the fact that the Government and Opposition have since then signed an agreement on the investigation of complaints. A copy of the statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website: www.fco.gov.uk/policy/news/press-releases.

Ministers have spoken to Prime Minister Meles to express concern about the events. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development

(Hilary Benn) also discussed this further with Prime Minister Meles and Opposition Leaders in Addis on 15 June. He urged all parties to show a firm commitment to the National Election Board and to the constitutional process so that the election process can be concluded. He called on Prime Minister Meles to follow due legal process for those who have been detained, to allow immediate access for their families and the Red Cross and to hold a full investigation into the shootings.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of recent events in Addis Ababa; and if he will make a statement. [5014]

Ian Pearson: We are alarmed at the recent incidents in Ethiopia and have expressed our concern to the Government and Opposition leaders. We are urging all parties to show calm and restraint.

It is vital that all parties now stand by and implement the declaration relating to the review and investigation of election complaints, which they have signed and committed to. The Prime Minister and the leaders of the Opposition Parties in Ethiopia owe it to the people of Ethiopia to ensure that the democratic process is completed peacefully and successfully.

Hamas

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W, on Hamas, what discussions his Department held with *(a)* the Conflicts Forum and *(b)* members of the Conflicts Forum between the death of Yasser Arafat and 1 March. [5660]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had no discussions with the Conflicts Forum or with members of the Conflict Forum about Hamas between the death of Yasser Arafat and 1 March 2005. However, on 14 June, FCO Research Analysts met Beverley Milton-Edwards (Queens University Belfast and Conflicts Forum) to hear about the Forum's past activity.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W, on Hamas, on what date in February he authorised contacts with Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [5661]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary authorised working-level contacts with Hamas elected representatives not directly implicated in violence on 21 February 2005.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W, on Hamas, which senior Hamas official the deputy consul-general in Jerusalem was seated next to at President Abbas's inauguration in January. [5658]

Dr. Howells: The deputy consul-general, acting as chargé d'affaires, sat next to Hassan Youssef, a senior Hamas leader, at President Abbas's inauguration. They did not engage in substantive conversation.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W, on Hamas, on what dates his officials had discussions with *(a)* the Palestinian Authority and *(b)* Israel concerning the seating arrangements of British officials at President Abbas's inauguration in January; and if he will make a statement. [5659]

Dr. Howells: There were no discussions with either the Palestinians or Israelis about seating arrangements for President Abbas' inauguration. Seating arrangements were not prepared—they were carried out as people arrived on the day under chaotic conditions.

Iraq

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the *(a)* financial, *(b)* technical and *(c)* manpower support offered by the Government to the Iraqi archaeological services in the Multi-National Division South East area of operations since Operation TELIC I; and what further measures are planned. [5359]

Dr. Howells: The Government take very seriously the need to respect Iraq's cultural heritage. As United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 (June 2004) stressed, all parties need to respect and protect Iraq's archaeological, historical, cultural, and religious heritage.

The Government's support has been for the Iraqi Ministry of Culture who have national responsibility for cultural heritage in Iraq. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in regular contact with the Iraqi Ministry of Culture. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport spoke with the former Iraqi Minister of Culture on 26 January and is kept closely informed of key cultural issues in Iraq.

In early 2005 the Government funded a capacity-building visit to the UK by three Iraqi interns from the Ministry of Culture. They received training on site management techniques and museology and were based at the British Museum. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport will give careful consideration to any further proposals designed to help the cultural reconstruction of Iraq.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have received in relation to the killing of Iraqis in the Kasra-wa-Atah district of north Baghdad on 5 May. [5542]

Dr. Howells: The Government have not received any representations relating to the bodies found in Kasra-wa-Atah district of north Baghdad on 5 May.

Israel

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Israel on attacks by the Israeli Defence Force which have impacted on Palestinian police officers. [3061]

Dr. Howells: The UK is actively working to build the capacity of the Palestinian civil police, through the EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUCOPPS).

We have raised with the Israeli Government the importance of facilitating Palestinian efforts to deliver effective policing, and we have made representations where Israel Defence Force (IDF) actions have affected Palestinian authority operations. In extreme cases IDF actions have led to the deaths of policemen. We call for both sides to maintain the period of calm and increased co-operation between the Israeli Government and Palestinian authority.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the UK will press the EU to take measures under Article 79 of the EU/Israel Association Agreement to enforce the human rights conditions of the Agreement. [5445]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We do not plan to call on the EU to take measures under Article 79 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The Government believe that, as a friend of Israel and the Palestinians, we can best exert influence and encourage both sides to take the steps needed for progress through close engagement. We, and our EU partners, regularly call on both sides to meet their roadmap commitments; for the Palestinians this includes taking effective action against terrorism and for the Israelis a freeze on all settlement activity and the easing of restrictions on the movement of persons and goods. We do not believe, however, that punitive measures would bring the parties any nearer to a peaceful resolution.

Malaysia

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects UK veterans of the campaign in Malaysia between 1957 and 1966 to be able to receive the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal awarded by the present Malaysian administration to all Commonwealth veterans of that campaign. [5000]

Mr. Straw: In the light of the Malaysian Government's request to present the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to British citizens, I have asked for certain principles of the Government's rules governing the accepting and wearing of foreign awards to be reviewed. The timing of an announcement on whether the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal may be presented will depend on the review, which I hope will be conducted quickly.

Murder Trial (Spain)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Spanish authorities on the date for commencement of the trial of the two Venezuelan nationals accused of the murder of the constituents of the hon. Member for Clwyd, South, Tony and Linda O'Malley, in March 2003; and if he will make a statement. [4981]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We continue to take a close and active interest in the case of Mr. and Mrs. O'Malley's murder. This has included high-level representations at an early stage in the investigation. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary asked the Spanish Foreign Minister, Ana Palcio, on 9 April 2003 to ensure that DNA samples relating to the murder could be tested as soon as possible. My hon. Friend the former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office Affairs (Mr. MacShane) also raised the issues of the speeding up of forensic testing and repatriation of the deceased with the Spanish Minister for Europe, Ramón de Miguel on 6 June 2003.

Spanish legal proceedings against the two Venezuelans accused of the murder are now under way. These differ significantly from a trial in the UK system. Since the proceedings began, we have not made representations to the Spanish authorities on any aspect of the case, as, under international law, we are unable to interfere in the judicial process of other countries. Our own judicial proceedings are similarly protected.

Non-proliferation Treaty

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the UK representatives at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference were; and what assessment he has made of the conference outcome. [5754]

Dr. Howells: Full details of the UK Delegation can be found on the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) website at: www.un.org/events/npt2005.

The Review Conference was not able to agree a substantive final document as the UK would have preferred. But it was able to discuss ways to address threats to the non-proliferation regime. The UK will be pursuing these ideas in appropriate fora over the coming months.

North Korea

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the nuclear weapons capability of North Korea; and if he will make a statement. [4980]

Ian Pearson: The Government have, for some time, had serious concerns about the nuclear programme and nuclear weapons ambitions of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We take every opportunity to raise these concerns in our dealings with the DPRK Government.

The Government assess that the DPRK extracted sufficient plutonium in the early 1990s for up to two nuclear warheads and that it has the technical capability to weaponise this material. Since then, the DPRK claims to have extracted enough plutonium from its stock of fuel rods to manufacture several additional nuclear warheads. We also believe the DPRK is pursuing efforts towards production of highly enriched uranium.

We call on the Government of North Korea to reconfirm its commitment to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, and to re-engage in discussions with the other participants of the 6 Party Talks process to achieve their objective peacefully through negotiation. We also continue to be gravely concerned about the

human rights situation in North Korea and raise this regularly with the DPRK authorities at ministerial and official level.

Operation Bracknell

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that all costs incurred by Sussex police in respect of Operation Bracknell in relation to the South East Asian tsunami are reimbursed. [5882]

Ian Pearson: The Sussex police have submitted a bill for Operation Bracknell costs incurred up to 31 March 2005. This bill, together with bills from police forces submitted in recent days, is being checked to see that it has been prepared in accordance with agreed guidelines. Appropriate costs will be reimbursed in July. A working group has been set up to consider what costs will be reimbursed for the period from 1 April.

Second World War

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which heads of Government have accepted invitations to attend UK commemorative events for the anniversary of the end of the Second World War. [5357]

Mr. Straw: There will be a series of public events in the UK to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War, which will culminate in a Day of National Commemoration on Sunday 10 July. This event is conceived principally as a national event for UK veterans, and not as an inter-governmental occasion. A decision was therefore taken not to invite Heads of Government but to invite all Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited to the UK, as well as the UK representatives of the Overseas Territories. The only Head of Government who is attending the events on this day is my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Torture

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 133W, on British detainees (torture allegations), (1) how many times in each of the last five years cases in which his Department has requested an impartial investigation by the relevant national authorities into allegations of the torture or ill-treatment of British citizens detained abroad have been drawn to the attention of Ministers; [5232]

(2) how many times in each of the last five years cases in which the Department has raised concerns about the torture or ill-treatment of British citizens detained abroad with the relevant national authorities have been drawn to the attention of the Minister. [5233]

Dr. Howells: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers are updated on a fortnightly basis on significant consular cases within their areas of responsibility. These updates would normally include information about any action taken on behalf of British nationals in detention overseas who have made allegations of mistreatment and Ministers take a close interest in these cases. Specific details on such cases are kept on individual case files only and it would therefore incur disproportionate cost to undertake the research necessary to provide exact figures.

UKvisas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisations he has identified as competitors to UKvisas; and whether they are required to meet public service agreement targets. [4767]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas is a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office Government Department responsible for administrating the UK immigration control overseas through the issue of entry clearance.

Under the FCO public service agreement (PSA) UKvisas aims to provide an effective and efficient entry clearance service as measured by specific underlying targets. The UKvisas annual report for 2004 available on the UKvisas website, www.ukvisas.gov.uk, gives details of performance against targets.

The UKvisas business plan available on the same website, details the specific underlying PSA targets for 2005–06. We review and compare our performance with that of other visa operations such as those of the USA, Australia and Schengen countries. Each may be subject to various performance-monitoring regimes by their governments.

Iraq

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his reply of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Iraq, if he will write to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr once his inquiries with the United States Government are completed. [5657]

Dr. Howells: I confirm that a letter will be sent once a reply from the relevant US Government officials has been received.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department has received regarding the country of origin of the Alouette helicopter spare parts sold to Zimbabwe. [4488]

Ian Pearson: We understand that the Alouette helicopter spare parts were supplied as part of a procurement package signed between South Africa and France and delivered from 1966 to 1971; and that they were subsequently offered for sale by the South African Air Force when the helicopters for which they were supplied were decommissioned.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of barring those members of the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs who were part of the group recommending the reclassification of cannabis to Class C from the current assessment of the stronger varieties of cannabis. [4044]

Paul Goggins: A number of members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), including the Chairman, were members of the ACMD when it considered the classification of cannabis preparations and provided its advice to the Home Secretary in March 2002.

As an independent advisory body it is important that the ACMD should be free and unfettered to conduct its business, without the interference of Parliament or Ministers. Members are appointed on the basis of their individual qualities and expertise, and on appointment are charged with providing independent and impartial advice to the best of their ability. Considerable effort is made to ensure that the membership of the ACMD reflects all necessary and appropriate disciplines and areas of knowledge and expertise, and it is fundamental that its advice is based on the contributions of its full membership so that it is as full and strong as possible.

I remain confident in the integrity and professionalism of the ACMD and its membership, and look forward to receiving its advice.

Airwave

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date he expects the extension of the Airwave system to the London Underground to be complete. [2543]

Hazel Blears: Airwave already covers most of the London Underground network. We expect the whole network, including the very deepest tunnels, to be covered by 2008. The British Transport police, who are responsible for policing the London Underground, already have radios that work in that environment.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles have been confiscated as a result of antisocial behaviour in Tamworth since police were given powers to do so. [3325]

Hazel Blears: Powers under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 allow a constable in uniform, after giving a warning, to stop and seize a motor vehicle, if he/she has grounds for believing that it is being used (or is likely to be used) in an antisocial manner causing harassment, alarm or distress.

Following the commencement of this power on 1 January 2003 the police in Tamworth introduced 'Operation Trench' in response to the problems caused by antisocial use of vehicles. To date the police have issued 119 Section 59 Warning Notices to the users of motor vehicles (both cars and bikes) and recovered 15 vehicles in total. The operation has also recovered seven stolen motor vehicles, resulting in the arrest of eight individuals.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in Preseli Pembrokeshire in each year since 1997. [3712]

Hazel Blears: Antisocial behaviour orders, introduced in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, have been available to the courts since 1 April 1999. From commencement up to 31 May 2000 data were collected, on aggregate numbers only, by police force area. Since 1 June 2000, from copies of the orders received, we are able to determine the local government authority areas in which prohibitions have been imposed. The constituency of Preseli Pembrokeshire is located within the local government authority area of Pembrokeshire county council. The available information is given in the table.

ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office, where restrictions are imposed in the Pembrokeshire county council area, by period, up to 30 September 2004 (latest available)

	Number
1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[1]	—
1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000	—
2001	—
2002	—
2003	—
1 January to 30 September 2004	6
Total	7

[1] Between 1 April 1999–31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa).

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the outcome of the pilot Automatic Number Plate Recognition system project. [3952]

Paul Goggins: The Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) pilot evaluation report, 'Driving Crime Down—Denying Criminals the Use of the Roads' tracked the first year of ANPR Project Laser Two and tested the roll out and operation of ANPR-enabled police intercept teams. The report concluded that ANPR is one of the most effective technologies currently available to the Police Service.

ANPR has had an impact on crime at all levels and has also proved effective in intelligence gathering and post-incident investigation. Dedicated police intercept officers in 23 forces using ANPR technology during Laser Two, achieved a nine fold increase in their average arrest rate to that of the nationally accepted average. In addition, the same officers produced three times the Offences Brought to Justice compared to conventional policing.

The national rollout of ANPR is now well under way and it is the Association of Chief Police Officer's (ACPO) vision, supported by the Home Office Police Standards Unit, for each police force to have at least one dedicated ANPR intercept team in place by October 2005 and for this facility to be extended to the equivalent of one per Police Basic Command Unit by April 2008.

The Government remain committed to ANPR so that it may both build and improve upon the level of success it has achieved so far.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system is expected to help reduce the number of uninsured drivers. [3953]

Paul Goggins: Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) intercept officers can currently issue an endorsable fixed penalty notice for the offence of driving while uninsured. Approximately 12 per cent. of the 54,035 fixed penalty notices issued during the Laser Two pilot were for this offence.

Provisions in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 give police both improved access to the Motor Insurers Database (this is an automated system of identifying to police officers those vehicles that are on the road that are uninsured) and a statutory power to seize a vehicle if there is no valid certificate of insurance for that vehicle.

The Government hope that by utilising these additional powers, police ANPR-enabled intercept teams will significantly help to reduce the number of vehicles that are using the roads without valid insurance cover.

Bicycle Bells

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department issues to the police on ascertaining whether a bicycle without a bell was sold before the change in the law requiring a bell came into force. [4224]

Paul Goggins: None: The requirement for the mandatory fitting of bells on pedal cycles is enforced at the point of sale by local authority trading standard officers. It is not a matter for the police.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for not having a bicycle bell of *(a)* cycle dealers and *(b)* cyclists. [4223]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to identify offences related specifically to bicycle bells from the data held on the Home Office Court Proceedings database as this information is not centrally collected.

British Airport Users

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research has been *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by his Department into the profiles of users of British airports. [3968]

Mr. McNulty: United Kingdom border controls are operated by the immigration service on an intelligence led basis. The monitoring of arriving traffic at all ports of entry and the risk assessment of any new or proposed traffic is undertaken on a regular basis within the context of research underpinned by intelligence which is gathered through the National Intelligence Model.

The immigration service monitors emerging trends identified by frontline staff and regional intelligence units. This information is analysed and a national intelligence report produced which enables targeted action to counter abuse. Increasing functionality within the e-Borders programme will enhance and augment existing profiling processes.

In addition the Multi Agency and Risk Assessment Group (MATRA) ensures that at the 36 airports participating in the process, the airport authorities and the three border agencies work closely together to effectively identify and assess risks to general security and put in place action plans in order to counter any potential threats.

Charities Commission

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what audits the Charities Commission uses to determine whether charities are acting in accordance with their constitutions. [3727]

Paul Goggins: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The chief executive at the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Community Support Officers

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community support officers are located in Wirral, South constituency. [4815]

Hazel Blears: The Merseyside police had 173 community support officers at the end of March. The chief constable (Bernard Hogan-Howe) is responsible for the operational management of the force including the deployment of community support officers (CSOs) to the Wirral area basic command unit. Within the Wirral the deployment of CSOs is a matter for the area commander. You may therefore wish to redirect your query to either the chief constable or the area commander (chief supt. Alan Jones).

Funding is being made available over the next three years to assist in the recruitment of a total of 24,000 CSOs by 2008. The investment will help deliver our commitment that by 2008 every area in England and Wales will benefit from dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policing teams.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the community support officers the Government plan to recruit by 2008 he expects to be posted in Tamworth. [3324]

Hazel Blears: Community support officers (CSOs) are employed by police authorities, and their deployment is an operational matter for the chief constable. We are making funding available to help increase the number of CSOs to 24,000 by 2008. This investment will help deliver our commitment that by 2008 every area in England and Wales will have access to a dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policing team.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value of assets seized from criminals by the Asset Recovery Agency under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 broken down by region has been in each year since 2002. [3339]

Hazel Blears: The information is not available in the format requested . The Assets Recovery Agency came into operation on 24 February 2003. The total value of assets recovered by the agency through civil recovery and taxation is £4.6 million. The agency has also obtained orders to freeze assets with a total value of £37.8 million.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 26 May. [4792]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 16 June.

Crime and Disorder Statistics

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol-related crimes there have been in *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* Waverley and *(c)* Surrey in each year since 1998. [3378]

Hazel Blears: It is not possible to identify offences that are alcohol-related from the recorded crime data collected centrally.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rates for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* theft of a vehicle and *(f)* theft from a vehicle have been in (i) Guildford and (ii) Waverley crime and disorder reduction partnership areas in each year since 1998. [3379]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not available. Detection rates are only available centrally for crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) which are co-terminous with basic command units. This is not the case with the Guildford and Waverley CDRPs which fall within the West Surrey basic command unit.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded offences of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* theft of a vehicle and *(f)* theft from a vehicle there have been in (i) Guildford and (ii) Waverley crime and disorder partnership areas in each year since 1998. [3382]

Hazel Blears: The available information relating to the Guildford and Waverley crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) areas is given in the tables. Data at CDRP level are only available from 1999–2000.

Table 1: Recorded crime in the Guildford crime and disorder reduction partnership area, 1999–2000 to 2001–02

Number of offences

	1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*
Violence against the person	1,027	1,175	948
Sexual offences	83	114	103
Robbery	51	70	78
Burglary in a dwelling	518	609	419
Theft of a vehicle	555	556	455
Theft from a vehicle	1,078	850	736

Note:
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Recorded crime in the Guildford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 2002–03 and 2003–04

Number of offences

	2002–03	*2003–04*
Violence against the person	1,196	1,555
Sexual offences	95	93
Robbery	69	93
Burglary in a dwelling	529	495
Theft of a vehicle	515	414
Theft from a vehicle	865	786

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 3: Recorded crime in the Waverley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 1999–2000 to 2001–02

Number of offences

	1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*
Violence against the person	491	612	474
Sexual offences	73	62	58
Robbery	18	21	27
Burglary in a dwelling	363	311	314
Theft of a vehicle	219	198	299
Theft from a vehicle	504	439	470

Note:
The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 4: Recorded crime in the Waverley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 2002–03 and 2003–04

Number of offences

	2002–03	*2003–04*
Violence against the person	628	825
Sexual offences	60	54
Robbery	22	30
Burglary in a dwelling	359	289
Theft of a vehicle	249	192
Theft from a vehicle	524	519

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 in the areas where it has been used in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. [3423]

Hazel Blears: The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis tells me that there has been positive feedback from the community and a reduction in the

number of calls to the police in the areas of Hammersmith and Fulham which have been authorised under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines his Department has issued to the Metropolitan Police Service regarding the implementation of section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. [3424]

Hazel Blears: A Home Office circular was issued to all police forces when this section came into force in January 2004 . In addition the Association of Chief Police Officers has circulated practice advice to all forces.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes where the victim was aged 18 or under were reported in Hammersmith and Fulham constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2004, broken down by type of crime. [3416]

Hazel Blears: This level of information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving mobile telephones were reported in Hammersmith and Fulham constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2004. [3417]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Metropolitan Police Service regarding the areas within the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham that have been designated under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. [3422]

Hazel Blears: None.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bicycle thefts were reported in Hammersmith and Fulham constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2004. [3418]

Paul Goggins: There were 1,006 recorded offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle in 2001–02 and 1,271 offences recorded in 2003–04. Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, the two figures are not directly comparable. Statistics for 1997 are not available centrally.

Criminal Records Bureau Checks

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many care home staff are awaiting clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau; how many care home staff were awaiting clearance in each of the last 18 months; and if he will make a statement; [3976]

(2) what the average waiting time is for a check to be carried out by the Criminal Records Bureau; and if he will make a statement. [4031]

Andy Burnham: The information requested regarding care home staff is not available. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is unable to provide information on Disclosure applications based on specific employment sectors. The CRB is planning enhancements to the Disclosure application form which will enable greater analysis in the future.

Based on all applications issued in May 2005, the average waiting time expressed in days from receipt of a Disclosure application form to the issue of a Disclosure is 10.7 days for Standard Disclosures and 28.2 days for Enhanced Disclosures. This includes the time taken for applications that are returned to customers for further information. This provides an average waiting time of 26.3 days for all Disclosures issued in May 2005.

However, it is worth stating that the average waiting time for 95 per cent. of Standard Disclosures was 7.6 days and 22 days for 95 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures, resulting in an average waiting time of 20.2 days for 95 per cent. of all Disclosures, including the time spent with customers. The CRB has published service standards of issuing 93 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within two weeks and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within four weeks. This service standard does not include the time taken for applications that are returned to customers.

The CRB has consistently achieved the service standard for Standard Disclosures. For Enhanced Disclosures, where an additional check is performed by local police forces for any relevant non-conviction information, the CRB has over recent months failed to achieve the service standard. For May 2005, the CRB issued 88.9 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within four weeks.

The CRB and the Association of Chief Police Officers are continuing to work together to improve the timeliness of the work conducted within all local police force Disclosure Units.

Dispersal Orders

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders are in force; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of dispersal orders. [2728]

Hazel Blears: We do not normally collect information on the number of areas in which dispersal powers are currently authorised. It is estimated from a specific exercise undertaken last year that dispersal powers were authorised in over 400 areas between January 2004, when the powers came into force and September 2004. We are in close touch with practitioners from both police and local authorities who consider dispersal powers to be a key tool for tackling antisocial behaviour, often used in conjunction with other measures.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders have been issued to Tamworth residents since January 2004. [3908]

Hazel Blears: The chief constable of Staffordshire tells me that no dispersal orders have been issued as no area of Tamworth has been designated under Section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 since January 2004.

Dr. Jerry Vlasak (Animal Rights)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received concerning the proposed visit by animal rights activist Dr. Jerry Vlasak to the United Kingdom. [3696]

Paul Goggins: I have received no representations about Dr. Jerry Vlasak.

Drink-driving

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for drink-driving resulted in custodial sentences in 2003, broken down by police authority. [2292]

Paul Goggins: Information taken from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database on convictions and custodial sentences for drink-driving offences by police force area in 2003 is given in the table.

Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by police force area, 2003

Number of offences

Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2,666	167
Bedfordshire	1,072	72
Cambridgeshire	933	56
Cheshire	1,905	110
Cleveland	981	61
Cumbria	843	37
Derbyshire	1,617	168
Devon and Cornwall	2,667	121
Dorset	1,264	73
Durham	1,170	77
Essex	2,622	311
Gloucestershire	890	37
Greater Manchester	4,743	437
Hampshire	3,663	234
Hertfordshire	1,904	78
Humberside	1,445	150
Kent	2,811	179
Lancashire	2,652	146
Leicestershire	1,725	143
Lincolnshire	1,111	42
London, City of	235	4
Merseyside	2,687	215
Metropolitan police	12,621	922
Norfolk	1,274	59
Northamptonshire	799	65
Northumbria	2,747	187
North Yorkshire	1,194	51
Nottinghamshire	1,644	149
South Yorkshire	2,089	125
Staffordshire	1,733	141
Suffolk	1,213	66
Surrey	1,464	44
Sussex	2,430	120
Thames Valley	3,884	159
Warwickshire	918	33
West Mercia	1,797	100
West Midlands	5,233	420
West Yorkshire	3,720	260
Wiltshire	1,031	62
England	87,397	5,881
Dyfed Powys	995	46
Gwent	1,149	94
North Wales	1,326	76
South Wales	2,840	211
Wales	6,310	427
England and Wales	93,707	6,308

[1] Immediate Custody includes sentences of Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentences of imprisonment.

Election Offences

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces in England have dedicated teams responsible for investigating election offences; and if he will make a statement. [2736]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not collected centrally.

EU Immigrants

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from the new member states of the EU had registered to work in the UK on 1 June. [3629]

Mr. McNulty: The latest management information from the Worker Registration Scheme for the period 1 May 2004 to 31 March 2005 was published on the 26 May 2005. The total number of applicants to the scheme during this period was 176,000. The next set of figures, incorporating the second quarter of 2005 (April to June 2005) will be published in August 2005.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total value was of fixed penalty notices handed out by the police in the Greater London area in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what percentage of this sum remains unrecovered. [2965]

Hazel Blears: The total value of fixed penalty notices issued is not collected centrally.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his timetable is for adopting the European convention on trafficking in human beings; and if he will make a statement. [334]

Paul Goggins: The UK has not yet taken the decision on whether or not to sign the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings and has no timetable for adoption at present. There are certain provisions in the convention which present concerns for the UK and which remain under active consideration. We want to resolve these issues before taking a decision on signature. We support fully all of the aims of the convention and we too want to see

widespread action to tackle this abhorrent trade at source, to protect and support the victims and bring those responsible to justice.

During the UK's forthcoming presidency of the EU the Government intend to treat combating trafficking in human beings as one of their justice and home affairs priorities. We are committed to agreeing a wide ranging EU action plan before the end of 2005 and will jointly host with Eurojust a conference focusing on investigating and prosecuting traffickers. We are considering other ways of highlighting this issue during our presidencies of the G8 and EU, both at ministerial and official levels.

The Government are committed to tackling trafficking in human beings, domestically and internationally, and are determined that the measures we take bring the criminals responsible for it to justice, while protecting the victims of trafficking, but without undermining our ability to control our borders.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to control the trafficking of human beings into the UK. [3863]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The Government are committed to tackling trafficking in human beings and have a comprehensive strategy including legislation, law enforcement, prevention, international co-operation and support of victims. We provide £20 million annually to Reflex, the multi-agency task force which co-ordinates the law enforcement response to organised immigration crime including people trafficking. Reflex operations continue to result in the disruption of organised crime groups.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency, due to become operational in April 2006, will have a strong focus on tackling organised immigration crime.

We have made human trafficking a priority during our EU presidency. We want to encourage greater police co-operation through EUROPOL and the sharing of best practice on investigations and prosecutions.

To be truly effective, the Government have recognised that they must also tackle trafficking at the source. There are a range of schemes in source countries, involving FCO and DfID, aimed at raising awareness of trafficking. We are also involved in capacity building work in source and transit countries.

Hunting Act (Policing Costs)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to date of policing the Hunting Act 2004. [3176]

Hazel Blears: The Association of Chief Police Officers informs me that this information has not been collected as a separate cost. It would therefore be very difficult to establish such costs from general policing costs in the countryside.

Identity Cards

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the penalty will be for those unwilling to pay the £1,000 civil penalty for not obtaining an identity card. [4139]

Mr. McNulty: Clause 6 of the Identity Cards Bill enables the Secretary of State to make an order imposing an obligation on individuals of a specified description to be entered in the Register. An individual could only be required to register once Parliament has agreed via a "super-affirmative" procedure to make registration compulsory. An individual who fails to register when required to do so under clause 6 will be liable to a civil penalty not exceeding £2,500.

Where an individual fails to satisfy his obligations under clause 6 subsections (2) and (3), he is liable for a further civil penalty not exceeding £2,500 in respect of each time the Secretary of State gives him notice requiring him to make an application and he fails to do so before the set deadline.

The Secretary of State must issue a code of practice setting out the matters that he will consider when determining the amount to be imposed by way of a civil penalty and before issuing the code, the Secretary of State must lay a draft of it before Parliament.

The Secretary of State must have regard to the code when imposing a civil penalty or considering a notice of objection under clause 34.

Clause 33 of the Bill sets out the requirements that apply to the Secretary of State when imposing a notice of a civil penalty. A person may object to the Secretary of State about the imposition of the civil penalty on the grounds that: he is not liable for it, that the circumstances of the contravention make the imposition of the penalty unreasonable or that the amount of the penalty is too high. This is set out in clause 34 of the Bill. A person may also appeal against the imposition of a civil penalty, as set out on clause 35 of the Bill, to the county court in England, Wales or Northern Ireland or to the Sheriff in Scotland.

In the case of non-payment of a civil penalty the Secretary of State will enforce the debt through the civil courts.

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the penalties will be for UK residents who refuse to register for the proposed identity card. [4414]

Mr. McNulty: An individual who refused to comply with the registration requirements when applying for a document designated under clause 4 of the Identity Cards Bill (such as a passport) would not be issued with the designated document.

Clause 6 of the Identity Cards Bill enables the Secretary of State to make an order imposing an obligation on individuals of a specified description to be entered in the Register. An individual could only be required to register once Parliament has agreed via a "super-affirmative" procedure to make registration compulsory. An individual who fails to register when required to do so under clause six will be liable to a civil penalty not exceeding £2,500.

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In the case of non-payment of a civil penalty the Secretary of State will enforce the debt through the civil courts.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely effects of identity cards on vulnerable groups in society. [4133]

Mr. McNulty: We are taking close consideration of the needs of vulnerable groups in designing the requirements for the identity cards system.

The Special Issues ID cards research conducted at the end of 2004 and the United Kingdom Passport Service biometric enrolment trial published in May 2005 have consulted a range of faith, race and nationality groups as well as stakeholders representing people with disabilities and disadvantaged groups (for example organisations representing blind people, deaf people, the elderly and physically and mentally disabled, transgender groups, Gypsies or the homeless).

Consultations with groups representing more vulnerable groups in society will continue to ensure that their requirements are fed into the design of the scheme.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to include *(a)* DNA and *(b)* medical records on the National Identity Register in the second stage of the identity cards process. [4172]

Mr. McNulty: The Identity Cards Scheme is not proposing to use DNA as one of the biometric identifiers. Clause 43 of the Identity Cards Bill defines biometric information as data about a person's external characteristics, e.g. facial image, iris pattern or fingerprints and therefore excludes DNA. DNA is not included in the list of information at Schedule one of the Identity Cards Bill that may be held on the National Identity Register and there is no power under Clause five of the Bill (applications relating to entries in the Register) for the Secretary of State to require a person to provide a DNA sample.

The Identity Cards Scheme is not proposing to include medical records on the National Identity Register. Clause one and Schedule one of the Identity Cards Bill sets out what information could be held on the Register. In general the storage of medical information on the Register would not be allowed by the Bill as medical information does not fall within the definition of registerable facts as set out in Clause 1(5) of the Bill.

The Bill does allow for the storage of voluntary information with the consent of both the person who is registered and the Secretary of State.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions for financially disadvantaged individuals will be made to offset the cost of the proposed identification cards. [4525]

Mr. McNulty: The Identity Cards Bill gives the Secretary of State the power to set fees to cover the costs of the scheme, subject to Parliament's consent. This is set out in clause 37 of the Bill. No decisions have yet been made on the fee schedule or concessionary fees and the final say will rest with Parliament.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether consent in the proposed Identity Card Bill will be defined by reference to Directive 95/46/EC. [4577]

Mr. McNulty: Clause 14 of the Identity Cards Bill as introduced into Parliament on 25 May 2005 contains provisions relating to situations in which a card-holder authorises, or otherwise consents to, a service provider's checking the national identity register against his identity card. The clause restricts the information which may be provided to a subset of information confirming identity. Clause 14 does not define consent as it is a commonly used and understood term.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the access that the police, security services and tax officials will be given to any national register established under legislation on identity cards. [4578]

Mr. McNulty: Other than properly authorised staff involved in the administration of the scheme no individual or organisation will have direct access to the National Identity Register itself.

Instead they will be allowed to verify information, or in certain circumstances, be able to obtain some information from the Register through the proposed agency. However, information from the Register can only be provided if specifically authorised by or under the powers in the Identity Cards Bill.

In the case of police, security services and tax officials, this can occur both with consent, as outlined in Clause 14 in the Identity Cards Bill and also without cardholder consent as long as it is within terms of Clauses 19–23.

Powers to provide information without consent in Clauses 19–23 are strictly limited. Information may be disclosed without consent to Security and Intelligence Agencies for the purposes of carrying out their functions.

The Police and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs may also be provided with information held on the scheme but the type of information and the circumstances in which it may be provided are limited by Clauses 19(3), 19(4) and 20(4).

Clause 20(4) in particular limits the provision of information on when a person's record on the Register has been checked to purposes connected with the prevention and detection of serious crime.

The Bill ensures that provision of information without consent will be properly regulated and subject to independent oversight. Unauthorised disclosure of information from the Register is a criminal offence under Clause 29 of the Bill.

Immigration and Asylum

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers were in receipt of section 4 support on *(a)* 1 January 2004, *(b)* 1 July 2004, *(c)* 1 December 2004, *(d)* 1 January 2005, *(e)* 1 February 2005 and *(f)* 1 March 2005. [3301]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available in the precise format requested. The information available is as follows:

Number of people supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 broken down by region

Region	*Number supported as at 1 April 2005*[1]
East Midlands	440
East of England	25
Greater London	475
North East	320
North West	965
Scotland	100
South East	40
South West	185
Wales	155
West Midlands	1,140
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,335
Total	5,180

[1] Numbers are provisional and rounded to nearest 5. As a consequence they may not sum due to rounding

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are being held in Prison Service establishments. [4681]

Mr. McNulty: Quarterly snapshots are published showing the number of people detained under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter.

The number of individuals recorded as having sought asylum at some stage detained in Prison Service establishments solely under Immigration Act powers as at 26 March 2005 was 125. This figure has been rounded to the nearest five, in accordance with National Statistics protocols.

Information on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers is published on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website athttp://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers are in receipt of section 4 support, broken down by *(a)* nationality, *(b)* regional location, *(c)* type of accommodation provided and *(d)* accommodation provider. [3302]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of failed asylum seekers in receipt of support under section 4 of the Immigration and Nationality Act 1999 is provided in the table. Information on the nationality of those in receipt of support is not readily available and could be produced only by examination of individual records. Information on the type of accommodation provided by individual providers is provided in the table.

List of section 4 accommodation providers and type of support provided

Name of provider	*Total number of asylum seekers including dependants supported*[1]	*Type of support provided*
M&Q	3,980	Accommodation and vouchers for food
RCA	365	Accommodation and vouchers for food
YMCA	180	Mixture of full board accommodation (including food) and accommodation only with vouchers for food
Clearsprings	205	Accommodation and vouchers for food
Angel	260	Mixture of full board accommodation (including food) and accommodation only with vouchers for food
Caradon	195	Accommodation and vouchers for food
Others	5	Accommodation and vouchers for food

[1] All figures are provisional and rounded to nearest 5. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Number of people supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 broken down by region

Region	*Number supported as at 1 April 2005*[1]
East Midlands	440
East of England	25
Greater London	475
North east	320
North west	965
Scotland	100
South east	40
South west	185
Wales	155
West Midlands	1,140
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,335
Total	5,180

[1] Numbers are provisional and rounded to nearest 5. As a consequence they may not sum due to rounding.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his target timetable is for clearing the backlog of decisions on applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain by failed asylum seekers who were granted Exceptional Leave to Remain; and if he will make a statement. [56]

Mr. McNulty: The current aim is to reduce the backlog of applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain from persons who were granted Exceptional Leave to Remain to levels consistent with meeting service standards by March 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of measures he has taken to control *(a)* illegal immigration and *(b)* unfounded asylum claims. [3703]

Mr. McNulty: We have already made significant improvements to border controls by expanding our juxtaposed controls, deploying new detection technology and increasing our airline liaison network overseas. This has had a significant impact both on deterring illegal immigration and reducing asylum intake.

Recent measures to tackle unfounded asylum applications have been very successful—the number of claims (and unfounded claims) has reduced significantly since 2002. We are taking further steps to deal with this issue, as set out in the five year strategy for asylum and immigration, "Controlling our Borders: Making migration work for Britain" which was published in February 2005 [Cm 6472]. This includes plans to introduce faster, tightly-managed processes for all new asylum claimants and maintaining existing detained processes alongside new, faster, non- detained processes which are currently being developed and will be implemented in phases.

Interception of Communications

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made in relation to the interception of communications under *(a)* the Interception of Communications Act 1985 and *(b)* the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for each year since such complaints have been permitted; and how many complaints were upheld in each year. [4575]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The records of the Interception of Communications Tribunal show that the number of complaints they received since its inception were as follows:

	Number
1985–86	[1]30
1987	45
1988	30
1989	49
1990	59
1991	58
1992	44
1993	41
1994	37
1995	64
1996	52
1997	79
1998	75
1999	69
2000–01	[2]60

[1] First year of operation
[2] Last year of operation

The Interception of Communications Tribunal found that there had been no contravention of sections 2 to 5 of IOCA. Consequently, no complaints were upheld.

(b) The Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT), established under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), came into being on 2 October 2000. From that date the IPT assumed responsibility for the jurisdiction previously held by, amongst others, the Interception of Communications Tribunal.

In his Annual Reports to the Prime Minister, the Interception of Communications Commissioner explained that complaints to the IPT could not be easily "categorised" under the three tribunal system that existed before RIPA (i.e. the Interception of Communications Tribunal, the Security Service Tribunal and the Intelligence Services Tribunal). Consequently it is not possible to detail the number of complaints lodged with the IPT that relate to the interception of communications that would have previously been considered by the Interception of Communications Tribunal.

The total number of complaints received by the IPT are as follows:

	Number
2000	[1]11
2001	91
2002	130
2003	109
2004	[2]—

[1] First three months of operation
[2] Figures to be published soon in the Commissioner's Annual 2004 Report

On no occasion did the Investigatory Powers Tribunal conclude that there had been a contravention of RIPA or the Human Rights Act 1998. Consequently, no complaints were upheld.

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal, like the Interception of Communications Tribunal before it, is a wholly independent body made up of senior members of the legal profession.

Israel

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has made to the Israeli authorities concerning the passage through the Separation Wall of farmers from the Jayyous area to their land. [4265]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

While Israel has a legitimate right to defend itself against terrorist attacks, we consider that the construction of the barrier on occupied land is unlawful. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised his concerns about the route of the barrier with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom during his visit to Israel on 7 June.

Diplomats at the British Consulate General in Jerusalem monitor conditions in Jayyous, where the impact of the barrier on the local Palestinian population is especially severe. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv has made specific representations to the Israeli Government on the impact of its actions in this area.

Licensed Premises (Violent Crime)

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises there were in each police area in each year from 1997; and if he will make a statement. [3047]

Hazel Blears: The available information is for 2002–03 and 2003–04 and is given in the table. Information for earlier years is not currently available.

These figures relate to violence recorded by the police rather than violence committed. Therefore they should not be taken as a complete illustration of the number of violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises.

For example, in certain areas where alcohol-related violence is particularly prevalent, local police are more likely to police city centres on Friday and Saturday nights thus recording more incidents of violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises. If football-related violence is a problem, the choice to send police officers to the match will undoubtedly lead to more violent crime being recorded than if they did not attend. There are other examples, such as the pro-active policing of antisocial behaviour.

Number of violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises by force for 2002–03 and 2003–04

Force	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Avon and Somerset	1,922	2,574
Bedfordshire	693	762
Cambridgeshire	584	750
Cheshire	504	806
Cleveland	588	1,615
Cumbria	488	600
Derbyshire	n/a	n/a
Devon and Cornwall	2,960	3,580
Dorset	813	752
Durham	n/a	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	584	816
Essex	n/a	1,756
Gloucestershire	707	864
Greater Manchester	n/a	1,620
Gwent	670	791
Hampshire	1,717	2,417
Hertfordshire	804	1,005
Humberside	821	1,007
Kent	551	813
Lancashire	2,653	3,910
Leicestershire	1,155	1,323
Lincolnshire	n/a	607
London, City of	159	151
Merseyside	n/a	n/a
Metropolitan police	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	521	540
Northamptonshire	1,083	1,043
Northumbria	1,850	1,767
North Wales	963	967
North Yorkshire	n/a	1,124
Nottinghamshire	n/a	n/a
South Wales	3,140	2,895
South Yorkshire	1,624	1,581
Staffordshire	1,927	2,424
Suffolk	808	993
Surrey	562	794
Sussex	n/a	n/a
Thames Valley	1,960	2,146
Warwickshire	839	932
West Mercia	n/a	882
West Midlands	3,731	4,140
West Yorkshire	3,327	2,017
Wiltshire	n/a	373

n/a = not available.

Magic Mushrooms

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice provided to him by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in relation to the change in the law on magic mushrooms under the Drugs Act 2005. [4673]

Paul Goggins: The Advisory Council was informed of the clarification of the law on magic mushrooms in a letter from the Home Office on 6 December 2004. The Chair of the Advisory Council, Sir Michael Rawlins wrote to me on 2 June setting out the Advisory Council's support for the measure. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Missing Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were reported to the police as missing from home in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* age and *(c)* gender. [2647]

Hazel Blears: The Home Office does not collect data on the number of children who go missing from home.

National Firearms Register

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when, and at what cost to public funds the National Firearms Register became operational; and if he will make a statement. [1583]

Hazel Blears: The Government remain fully committed to a National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS). The main purpose of pilot testing is to reveal any potential problems that may arise. Acceptance testing last summer did highlight a number of issues but a full investigation was launched immediately to resolve them and to re-instate the roll-out programme. The NFLMS is scheduled to start going live on 11 July 2005 and will be ready for forces to take once it has been successfully signed off.

The total cost of the project to date is in the region of £5.4 million.

Offences Against the Person Act

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, section 16 (as amended), for repeated threats to kill in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [1287]

Hazel Blears: The data contained in the table gives the number of defendants proceeded against for "making threats to kill" under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, Section 16 (as amended), England and Wales 2002 to 2003.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

Number of defendants proceeded against for "making threats to kill" under Offences Against the Person Act 1861, section 16 (as amended) [1]
England and Wales 2002 to 2003

	Proceeded against
2002	3,462
2003	3,721

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Overseas Corruption

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the allegations of overseas corruption held by the National Criminal Intelligence Service come from *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Latin

America, *(c)* the Caribbean, *(d)* the Middle East, *(e)* North Africa, *(f)* North America, *(g)* Central Asia, *(h)* South Asia, *(i)* Europe and *(j)* the Pacific. [4227]

Hazel Blears: The information is as follows:

		Number
(a)	Africa	15
(b)	Latin America	2
(c)	The Caribbean	2
(d)	The Middle East	5
(e)	North Africa	0
(f)	North America	3
(g)	Central Asia	0
(h)	South Asia	4
(i)	Europe	11
(j)	The Pacific	1

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations are on the register of allegations of overseas corruption held by the National Criminal Intelligence Service. [4228]

Hazel Blears: The National Criminal Intelligence Service currently has 44 referrals on the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act register.

Pedicabs/Rickshaws

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the police about parking and traffic offences committed by the riders of pedicabs or rickshaws. [3178]

Hazel Blears: I have held no discussions specifically on this issue.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the police about assaults committed by the riders of pedicabs or rickshaws. [3180]

Hazel Blears: I have had no discussions specifically on this issue. Investigation of offences is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* parking and *(b)* traffic offences have been committed by the riders of pedicabs and rickshaws in the last 12 months. [3181]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to identify how many riders of pedicabs or rickshaws have been convicted of these offences from the data held on the Home Office Court Proceedings database, as this information is not centrally collected.

Police

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are subject to *(a)* internal investigations and *(b)* disciplinary proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [4662]

Hazel Blears: Information about the number of police officers subject to internal investigations and disciplinary proceedings is not held centrally by the Home Office. It could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the forms completed by the police following *(a)* the report of a criminal offence and *(b)* the arrest of a suspect. [2966]

Hazel Blears: A crime report form will be completed following every report of a criminal offence. Depending on the nature of the offence reported, a witness and/or victim statement will be taken at the beginning of the investigation.

For a person arrested and taken to the police station, a custody record will be completed in all cases. A custody record must be made under Section 37(4) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 by the custody officer for every person detained in a police station before charge. The content and number of entries will vary according to what happens to the detained person, the period of detention, the course of the investigation and the outcome.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Association of Chief Police Officers have issued to police forces on the destruction of (i) paper-based and (ii) computer-based files and crime reports; and if he will make a statement. [3045]

Hazel Blears: The Home Office does not issue guidance on these matters. I understand that the following relevant guidelines have been issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO): General Rules for Criminal Record Weeding on Police Systems (issued November 2000); ACPO Data Protection Code of Practice (October 2002); Guidance on the Disposal and Retention of Police Records (November 2003). The Rules for Criminal Record Weeding are currently under active review and will be replaced by new Retention Guidelines.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks there have been on police officers in each of the last five years, broken down by police authority; how many people have been successfully prosecuted for carrying out such attacks; how many prosecutions are ongoing; and if he will make a statement. [4157]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* The available information relates to offences of assault on a constable. Table 1 gives the number of offences recorded by the police by police force area for 1999–2000 to 2003–04. Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 2 gives the number of persons found guilty of such offences and covers the period 1999 to 2000.

Because recorded crime data relates to offences and court proceedings data relates to defendants, the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Recorded offences of assault on a constable, England and Wales 1999–2000 to 2003–04

Number of offences

Police force area	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*[1]	*2003–04*
Avon and Somerset	305	312	319	405	534
Bedfordshire	258	210	241	343	313
Cambridgeshire	216	238	251	281	260
Cheshire	522	483	554	617	724
Cleveland	93	133	206	314	236
Cumbria	212	145	204	181	183
Derbyshire	610	571	634	848	399
Devon and Cornwall	628	646	646	671	430
Dorset	270	287	403	494	330
Durham	1,032	1,077	1,248	1,078	181
Dyfed-Powys	266	261	308	344	225
Essex	410	352	352	498	578
Gloucestershire	252	261	206	275	191
Greater Manchester	1,891	1,905	1,972	2,016	796
Gwent	530	641	505	595	316
Hampshire	578	636	688	976	1,008
Hertfordshire	257	304	387	449	702
Humberside	523	509	538	754	439
Kent	722	620	635	851	755
Lancashire	973	1,239	1,366	1,536	814
Leicestershire	213	315	337	447	432
Lincolnshire	223	178	218	281	160
London, City of	37	30	39	45	34
Merseyside	1,237	1,429	1,361	1,651	979
Metropolitan police	1,401	1,367	1,269	1,908	2,796
Norfolk	457	405	439	549	444
Northamptonshire	392	331	305	353	305
Northumbria	1,018	1,171	1,176	1,608	588
North Wales	298	445	434	550	246
North Yorkshire	508	426	449	582	274
Nottinghamshire	433	477	543	452	509
South Wales	720	868	893	1032	700
South Yorkshire	756	923	785	689	434
Staffordshire	690	748	661	792	525
Suffolk	245	255	297	362	321
Surrey	209	266	223	288	413
Sussex	760	891	1,120	1,089	625
Thames Valley	826	802	1,254	1,527	709
Warwickshire	286	258	259	310	233
West Mercia	640	587	768	845	523
West Midlands	2,606	3,234	3,811	2,817	360
West Yorkshire	1,388	1,488	1,503	1,695	634
Wiltshire	224	276	288	345	269
Total	26,115	28,000	30,095	33,743	21,927

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2005. Because of this, figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 2: Defendants found guilty at all courts for assault on a constable[1]*, by police force area—England and Wales, 1999–2003*[2]

Number

Police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Avon and Somerset	158	172	208	174	257
Bedfordshire	57	54	52	59	88
Cambridgeshire	75	71	72	74	88
Cheshire	110	112	103	101	137
City of London	6	8	9	10	11
Cleveland	39	42	59	64	90
Cumbria	68	53	59	55	91
Derbyshire	148	124	122	140	181
Devon and Cornwall	206	202	197	191	236
Dorset	56	79	67	96	111
Durham	105	110	119	117	105
Essex	120	129	124	179	222
Gloucestershire	90	85	83	71	66
Greater Manchester	298	309	292	302	371
Hampshire	293	262	239	303	386
Hertfordshire	78	75	87	101	159
Humberside	111	122	85	116	143
Kent	223	217	180	228	281
Lancashire	243	246	243	263	257

Table 2: Defendants found guilty at all courts for assault on a constable[1], by police force area—England and Wales, 1999–2003[2]

Number

Police force area	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Leicestershire	105	108	117	113	157
Lincolnshire	39	46	75	68	66
Merseyside	156	181	200	206	290
Metropolitan police	737	755	682	778	1,054
Norfolk	120	94	128	121	130
North Yorkshire	76	73	61	80	86
Northamptonshire	74	81	52	54	72
Northumbria	205	233	233	200	250
Nottinghamshire	147	142	144	120	128
South Yorkshire	118	131	134	130	175
Staffordshire[3]	151		124	130	147
Suffolk	58	60	65	84	117
Surrey	69	83	78	100	113
Sussex	152	160	169	164	192
Thames Valley	121	114	105	124	126
Warwickshire	44	51	59	54	54
West Mercia	140	131	145	134	156
West Midlands	351	345	413	442	425
West Yorkshire	160	161	131	154	210
Wiltshire	92	66	78	66	115
Dyfed-Powys	102	90	104	92	82
Gwent	146	152	126	133	110
North Wales	97	79	79	79	96
South Wales	173	197	201	238	253
Total	6,117	6,152	6,103	6,508	7,884

[1] Offence includes assault on a constable under the Police Act 1996 Sec. 89(1) as well as offences against similar provisions in local acts.
[2] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure West Mercia police force continues to patrol the parish of Pontesbury, Shropshire. [2793]

Hazel Blears: The deployment of patrolling officers is an operational matter for the chief constable of West Mercia police force.

The Government support visible and accessible policing and have made a commitment that by 2008, every area in England and Wales will benefit from dedicated neighbourhood policing teams. These teams will provide a responsive police presence in rural and urban areas.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents involving police service vehicles there were in each year since 1995, broken down by police authority; and if he will make a statement. [2892]

Hazel Blears: Figures for road traffic collisions are currently available from 2002–03.

The available information for the numbers of casualties and degree of injury from road traffic collisions resulting from immediate/emergency response and police pursuits on public roads involving all police forces in England and Wales is provided in the table.

Degree of injury from road traffic collisions involving all Police forces in England and Wales

	2002–03				*2003–04*			
Police force area	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Other injury*	*Total*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Other injury*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	2	7	53	62	2	6	74	82
Bedfordshire	0	2	16	18	1	1	56	58
Cambridgeshire	0	6	6	12	0	4	12	16
Cheshire	0	2	27	29	0	1	17	18
Cleveland	0	0	18	18	1	0	3	4
Cumbria	0	0	8	8	0	0	5	5
Derbyshire	0	0	38	38	0	1	25	26
Devon and Cornwall	0	1	26	27	1	1	64	66
Dorset	0	1	10	11	1	2	9	12
Durham	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	1	36	39
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	2	32	34	2	3	36	41
Gloucestershire	0	0	24	24	0	0	4	4
Greater Manchester	4	5	74	83	6	9	56	71
Gwent	0	0	12	12	0	0	24	24

Degree of injury from road traffic collisions involving all Police forces in England and Wales

Police force area	2002–03 Fatal injury	2002–03 Serious injury	2002–03 Other injury	2002–03 Total	2003–04 Fatal injury	2003–04 Serious injury	2003–04 Other injury	2003–04 Total
Hampshire	1	7	29	37	0	3	7	10
Hertfordshire	0	6	59	65	0	2	16	18
Humberside	0	3	19	22	0	1	25	26
Kent	0	2	48	50	0	7	73	80
Lancashire	0	1	31	32	0	2	30	32
Leicestershire	1	2	15	18	0	2	16	18
Lincolnshire	0	2	10	12	0	5	18	23
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Merseyside	3	3	62	68	3	6	75	84
Metropolitan Police	5	14	63	82	4	21	600	625
Norfolk	1	1	17	19	1	1	28	30
Northamptonshire	0	1	14	15	1	6	19	26
Northumbria	0	3	62	65	0	3	70	73
North Wales	0	0	18	18	0	1	5	6
North Yorkshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	2	5	8	15	1	8	57	66
South Wales	0	0	20	20	0	0	9	9
South Yorkshire	0	3	24	27	0	12	67	79
Staffordshire	0	0	26	26	0	1	29	30
Suffolk	0	1	6	7	0	3	11	14
Surrey	0	2	38	40	1	2	33	36
Sussex	0	7	45	52	0	6	27	33
Thames Valley	3	13	115	131	2	11	122	135
Warwickshire	0	0	5	5	0	1	10	11
West Mercia	0	4	30	34	0	2	22	24
West Midlands	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	2	44	48
West Yorkshire	0	0	15	15	0	0	7	7
Wiltshire	0	0	8	8	0	0	4	4
Total	22	106	1,131	1,259	31	138	1,846	2,015

[1] Data is not available in 2003–04

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had regarding the future of the Bruche police training centre; and what decisions have been made about the future of the centre. [1131]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 26 May 2005]:* The Bruche police training centre is the property of the Central Police Training and Development Agency (Centrex) and, as such, its future is the responsibility of the Centrex board and the organisation's chief executive, Norman Bettison.

Centrex are in the process of reviewing and producing an updated version of their estates strategy.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police patrol vehicles, *(b)* police vans, *(c)* unmarked police vehicles and *(d)* other police vehicles are available in each London borough; and if he will make a statement. [2895]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Prisons (Staff Vacancies)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff vacancies there were at each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offenders institution on 31 December (i) 2002, (ii) 2003 and (iii) 2004; and if he will make a statement. [2893]

Fiona Mactaggart: Information on staff vacancies against operational staffing requirement at 31 December 2002, 2003 and 2004 for each public sector prison establishment is contained in the table. Operational posts are highlighted separately within the table. The figures represent a snapshot of the staffing position in establishments. Details about levels of vacancies within privately managed establishments are not routinely collected and are therefore not included in the table.

The Service has had considerable success in filling posts over the past three years and shortfalls among operational staff over the past three years have fallen steadily. To cover vacancies in the short-term certain establishments are allowing officers to work additional hours as part of the 'Contracted Supplementary Hours Scheme'. This scheme contributed the equivalent of 463 full-time officers at 31 December 2004. At that time the total operational staff availability was 25,383 compared with an operational staffing requirement of 25,704, resulting in a Service-wide shortfall of just 1.2 per cent., well within an acceptable operating margin.

Staffing levels in non-operational roles are more fluid and vacancy figures reflect a number of reviews taking place across the Prison Service and work to introduce greater efficiencies. This led to decisions to leave posts unfilled.

Establishment	31 December 2002		31 December 2003		31 December 2004	
	Officers and operational managers	Other staff	Officers and operational managers	Other staff	Officers and operational managers	Other staff
Acklington	27	—	—	—	2	—
Albany	9	—	—	—	5	3
Ashwell	13	15	7	11	4	—
Askham Grange	1	—	1	5	—	—
Aylesbury	9	—	15	—	5	1
Bedford	24	—	5	3	17	10
Belmarsh	37	33	34	21	36	32
Birmingham	13	7	17	4	21	19
Blakenhurst	1	6	5	—	3	9
Blantyre House	1	1	—	—	—	3
Blundeston	8	5	1	—	1	13
Brinsford	6	—	10	1	20	16
Bristol	33	21	19	—	10	4
Brixton	1	26	9	8	3	—
Brockhill	3	8	5	13	3	12
Buckley Hall	4	—	8	—	—	3
Bullingdon	10	3	27	27	26	31
Bullwood Hall	17	1	10	—	10	—
Camp Hill	8	—	10	13	—	—
Canterbury	—	—	—	5	—	11
Cardiff	8	3	7	6	—	8
Castington	15	4	16	—	10	—
Channings Wood	2	—	6	—	—	—
Chelmsford	12	—	15	16	9	5
Coldingley	—	5	—	—	3	4
Cookham Wood	14	2	5	—	2	—
Dartmoor	—	2	1	1	6	2
Deerbolt	—	—	6	2	—	26
Dorchester	2	—	3	1	—	—
Dover	5	13	3	13	4	13
Downview	16	—	21	5	14	2
Drake Hall	8	—	5	—	4	4
Durham	3	—	6	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	—	1	—	—	—	2
Eastwood Park	14	3	8	8	9	32
Edmunds Hill	7	29	5	21	17	23
Elmley	1	17	—	—	—	23
Erlestoke	19	13	8	4	9	7
Everthorpe	1	2	—	—	—	—
Exeter	34	21	2	11	—	5
Featherstone	1	6	1	5	2	15
Feltham	70	35	50	31	70	6
Ford	3	4	6	10	6	6
Foston Hall	1	—	1	8	10	8
Frankland	19	—	—	—	24	13
Full Sutton	6	1	11	5	9	25
Garth	3	4	7	—	5	1
Gartree	—	—	7	—	3	14
Glen Parva	14	12	10	19	3	24
Gloucester	6	—	6	—	8	13
Grendon	20	11	6	3	7	—
Guys Marsh	5	—	6	—	4	4
Haslar	—	—	1	1	1	—
Haverigg	6	2	4	3	5	8
Hewell Grange	—	6	1	—	1	3
High Down	30	17	27	—	5	15
Highpoint	9	—	5	1	5	15
Hindley	29	11	15	3	16	12
Hollesley Bay	-	-	1	2	5	10
Holloway	49	14	-	17	23	3
Holme House	9	—	7	10	10	13
Hull	9	—	4	10	5	15
Huntercombe	—	6	1	2	19	22
Kingston	1	1	—	6	3	—
Kirkham	—	3	5	8	1	11
Kirklevington Grange	—	—	—	5	—	2
Lancaster	8	—	2	—	2	4
Lancaster Farms	7	20	25	—	8	7
Latchmere House	3	5	1	1	3	4
Leeds	—	8	4	—	—	—

Establishment	31 December 2002		31 December 2003		31 December 2004	
	Officers and operational managers	Other staff	Officers and operational managers	Other staff	Officers and operational managers	Other staff
Leicester	—	4	5	—	14	—
Lewes	12	8	4	13	4	12
Leyhill	4	6	3	20	4	17
Lincoln	10	17	15	11	9	11
Lindholme	5	—	4	—	—	—
Littlehey	7	10	12	22	10	21
Liverpool	5	—	—	17	5	15
Long Lartin	14	3	17	6	14	23
Low Newton	16	11	5	11	6	1
Maidstone	3	—	—	2	—	20
Manchester	3	—	41	30	41	22
Moorland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	5	4	2	5	3	9
New Hall	20	11	19	17	4	6
North Sea Camp	1	4	3	—	5	11
Northallerton	—	1	—	—	1	9
Norwich	5	9	14	8	10	10
Nottingham	—	—	4	1	—	—
Onley	18	16	11	—	12	27
Parkhurst	12	11	6	—	13	—
Pentonville	9	—	24	—	1	—
Portland	21	7	6	7	8	9
Preston	—	—	9	—	6	—
Ranby	—	—	2	—	7	—
Reading	3	1	7	4	1	1
Risley	24	—	5	6	14	2
Rochester	4	—	23	7	—	6
Send	13	10	5	9	13	11
Shepton Mallet	1	1	—	3	—	5
Shrewsbury	1	—	6	—	6	—
Stafford	4	—	—	—	2	—
Standford Hill	13	10	4	1	3	9
Stocken	—	—	2	7	6	10
Stoke Heath	12	—	3	—	17	11
Styal	11	27	5	32	—	17
Sudbury	—	1	—	1	1	8
Swaleside	7	—	11	2	—	3
Swansea	4	—	1	—	7	14
Swinfen Hall	2	5	4	—	12	16
The Mount	7	1	15	11	16	11
The Verne	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	8	—	8	—	9	6
Usk/Prescoed	7	2	6	9	—	—
Wakefield	—	3	17	10	—	19
Wandsworth	—	—	5	2	19	6
Warren Hill	146	127	11	7	9	4
Wayland	2	—	—	4	4	7
Wealstun	5	—	—	1	—	7
Weare	2	1	1	—	7	4
Wellingborough	7	13	5	6	32	37
Werrington	7	8	5	3	1	4
Wetherby	6	—	4	1	15	2
Whatton	8	6	8	1	—	12
Whitemoor	60	29	28	38	11	57
Winchester	1	—	—	37	1	8
Woodhill	50	26	31	39	10	31
Wormwood Scrubs	26	29	21	—	—	6
Wymott	4	—	37	53	13	25
Total	1,289	814	978	792	903	—

Race Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3550]

Paul Goggins: The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a general duty on Government Departments to have regard to the need to *(a)* eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; and *(b)* promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups. The general duty also applies to a large number of specified public authorities.

The Home Secretary has also made Orders under the Act to place the "specific duties" on named public authorities. The list of bodies subject to the general and specific duties is updated periodically in consultation with the Commission for Racial Equality and other Government Departments. One of these specific duties is to produce a Race Equality Scheme that sets out their arrangements for complying with the Act.

The Home Office published its revised race equality scheme on 26 May 2005. In addition to the legislative requirements the scheme also sets out key challenges, objectives and targets on race equality. The Home Office race equality scheme encompasses a number of associate schemes such as the Prison Service, United Kingdom Passport Service and National Probation Directorate and includes the associate race equality scheme for Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary. The Home Office will continue to ensure that other public bodies comply with the Race Relations (Amendment) Act.

Speed Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tickets issued following infringements caught on speed cameras have been challenged and upheld in each year since their introduction in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend. [4586]

Paul Goggins: Information is not available centrally on the number of people prosecuted for speeding offences detected by camera who elect to challenge a fixed penalty notice.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was raised in fines from speed cameras in the Humberside area in each of the past three years. [3593]

Paul Goggins: Information on the revenue raised from speed offences detected by camera is not available.

However the table shows, for the Humberside police force area, the number of fixed penalties ordered to be paid and the number of court fines for such offences in the calendar years 2001 to 2003 (latest available). Information for 2004 is not yet available.

Not all fines and fixed penalties will have been paid.

Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for speed offences detected by cameras[1] within the Humberside police force area, 2001, 2002 and 2003[2]

Number of offences

	Fixed Penalties		Court Proceedings[3]		
	Number of tickets[4]	*Estimated revenue*[5] *(£)*	*Number of fines*	*Total amount of fine (£)*	*Average fine (£)*
2001[6]	13,600	816,200	15	3,150	210
2002[7]	5,300	320,100	11	1,650	150
2003[2]	23,800	1,426,000	10	1,300	127

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and The Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Humberside police joined the Safety Camera Funding Scheme in 2003.
[3] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
[4] Only covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[5] Estimate based on £60 fixed penalty charge.
[6] A single month's shortfall was found for court proceedings summary motoring offences within Humberside police force in 2001.
[7] Includes six months fixed penalty notice data only.

Under-age Sales Prosecutions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses were prosecuted for selling *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* glue products and *(c)* fireworks to people under age in (i) Brent East and (ii) each London borough in each of the last five years. [2550]

Hazel Blears: The available information is contained in the tables and gives the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts/London borough, 1999 to 2003 for: selling alcohol and fireworks to persons underage. There were no prosecutions as notified to the Home Office Court Proceedings for retailers supplying intoxicating substances to persons under 18.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2004 will be published in the autumn.

Number of defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts for "selling alcohol to persons underage"[2], by magistrates courts/London borough, 1999 to 2003

Magistrate courts/borough	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Inner London magistrates' courts					
City of London Police					
Guildhall Justice Rooms	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan police					
Bow Street	3	—	—	—	—
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	—	—	—	—	—
Greenwich and Woolwich	—	—	—	1	1
Highbury Corner	—	—	—	—	—
Horseferry Road	—	—	—	—	3
Marylebone	—	—	—	—	—
South Western	—	—	—	—	—
Thames	—	—	—	—	—
West London	—	—	2	—	—
Outer London boroughs					
Metropolitan Police					
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	—	2
Barnet	—	—	—	1	3
Bexley	—	1	—	—	4
Brent	—	—	—	3	2
Bromley	—	—	1	1	—
Croydon	—	—	—	—	—
Ealing	—	—	—	—	—
Enfield	—	—	—	—	10
Haringey	—	—	—	—	43
Harrow	4	—	—	—	4
Havering	—	1	—	—	9
Hillingdon	2	—	—	—	13
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston-upon-Thames	—	—	—	3	1
Merton	—	—	—	—	—
Newham	1	—	—	—	—
Redbridge	2	—	—	1	4
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—	1	3
Sutton	3	—	16	1	1
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	10
Total Metropolitan Police	15	2	19	12	113
Total Greater London	15	2	19	12	113

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes: "Selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises" and "Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18".

Vehicle Recovery Costs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were recovered by police forces in each of the last 10 years; and at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [4612]

Hazel Blears: Information on stolen vehicles recovered ceased to be collected from 2001–02. Prior to that date the available figures were published annually in chapter 2 of the Command Paper "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales". Copies of the all the relevant publications are available in the Library.

Information is not collected centrally on the cost of recovery of stolen vehicles.

Victim Support National Office

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the paper approved by the National Council of Victim Support in March on an external review of the role, scope and location of the Victim Support National Office; and if he will make a statement. [2699]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Home Office has no formal seat on Victim Support's National Council; and has not therefore conducted an assessment of the paper submitted to the organisation's National Council.

As a condition of grant in aid the Home Office requires Victim Support to have a management and organisational structure capable of delivering Criminal Justice System objectives effectively, economically and efficiently. The Home Office expects Victim Support to maximise the use of staff skills, volunteers' skills and other resources and to deliver good value for money.

Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he will publish the research carried out by London Metropolitan University into section 41 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999; [733]

(2) what audit is carried out by his Department of the applications made to admit previous sexual history in rape trials. [591]

Paul Goggins: Provisions on the admission of evidence and questioning relating to previous sexual history in criminal proceedings are set out in sections 41 to 43 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. The Home Office commissioned London Metropolitan University to carry out during 2003–04 research on the working of these provisions. The findings of this research are due to be published this autumn. Although the statistical data requested are not identifiable within the data regularly collected centrally, this research study is expected to provide some information on the proportion of rape trials in which applications to admit previous sexual history evidence are made and the success rate of applications.

Zimbabwe

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government will implement the UNHCR's recommendation for states to suspend all removals to Zimbabwe. [3306]

Mr. McNulty: Asylum and human rights claims by Zimbabwean nationals are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European convention on human rights (ECHR). As with any other nationality, Zimbabweans who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 Convention are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those Zimbabweans who need it.

Each application is considered against the background of the latest available country information from a wide range of reliable sources including international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the media. In addition, we are in continual dialogue with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about country conditions in Zimbabwe.

Asylum decisions are based on the circumstances of the individual claimant and, while we are aware of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' advice based on a general assessment of conditions in Zimbabwe, that does not mean that it would be unsafe for failed Zimbabwean asylum seekers to return to Zimbabwe. Where it is clear that there are Zimbabweans in need of international protection and the asylum system will continue to provide that, but if an asylum and human rights claim is refused, and any appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal is unsuccessful, that means that it would be safe for that particular individual to return to Zimbabwe.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been given in grants to support abortion clinics outside the NHS in each of the last five years. [5196]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not provided any grants to approved independent sector abortion clinics in the last five years. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing reproductive health services which meet the needs of their local populations. Some may choose to contract services with the independent sector. No information is collected centrally on PCT expenditure on the provision of abortion services in non-national health service settings.

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which her Department is responsible available online. [3719]

Jane Kennedy: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO have considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but have decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a statute law database, which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

Alcohol Programmes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the NHS on *(a)* alcohol awareness programmes and *(b)* alcohol-related treatment in the last period for which figures are available. [5496]

Caroline Flint: Primary care trusts are responsible for providing alcohol services and programmes from their core budgets. There are no centrally held figures on such expenditure. The Department has commissioned a national alcohol needs assessment for England, which will be published in July 2005.

Allergy Specialists

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Health Select Committee in November 2004 that 40 new allergy specialists should be trained in the national health service. [5387]

Mr. Byrne: In its response to the Health Committee report on the provision of allergy services, the Government undertook to carry out a review of the available data and research on the epidemiology of allergic conditions, the demand for and provision of treatment and the effectiveness of relevant interventions. The Chief Medical Officer is overseeing this review of the evidence, which we hope to complete by the end of June 2006. It will inform decisions about what steps could be taken to address any gaps and pressures that it reveals.

Asthma

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth primary care trust have been recorded as suffering from asthma in each year since 1997. [3321]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the requested format. However, information relating to the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for the Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth primary care trust (PCT) area are shown in the tables. The data is split into age groups: 0 to 17 years—children and 18 years and over—adult.

Count of FCEs for asthma (ICD-10 Codes = J45, J46), PCT of residence—Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth. Data years: 1997–98 to 2003–04

Table 1. Primary diagnosis count of episodes where asthma is the primary diagnosis

	Age group	
	0–17 years	*18 years and over*
1997–98	143	171
1998–99	83	137
1999–2000	100	140
2000–01	86	106
2001–02	98	135
2002–03	75	104
2003–04	68	129

Table 2. Primary diagnosis count of episodes where asthma is mentioned in any of the primary or secondary diagnosis fields.

	Age group	
	0–17 years	*18 years and over*
1997–98	177	320
1998–99	124	273
1999–2000	133	330
2000–01	145	331
2001–02	119	400
2002–03	102	389
2003–04	104	423

Notes:

1. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The Health and Social Care Information Centre liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
4. As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002–03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
5. "All Diagnoses count of episodes" figures represent a count of all FCE's where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
6. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data, that is the data is ungrossed.

Source:

HES, Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Breast Cancer (Waiting Times)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to introduce a target to measure the period between GP referral and first outpatient appointment for women suffering from breast cancer but routinely referred; and how she plans to monitor the time women wait. [3446]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The target that women with suspected breast cancer should be seen by a specialist within two weeks of urgent referral by their general practitioner was introduced in April 1999 and currently 99.8 per cent. of women are seen within this target. The Labour Party manifesto gave the commitment that all women with breast symptoms should be seen within two

weeks of referral by their GP by 2008. Details of the introduction of this commitment and how it will be monitored are being finalised.

CAT/MRI Scanners

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals are operating *(a)* NHS-owned and *(b)* privately-owned (i) CAT scanners and (ii) MRI scanners on NHS premises. [4636]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are approximately 267 magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners and 361 computed tomography (CT) fixed site scanners installed in national health service hospitals. Of these, 42 MRI scanners and 30 CT scanners are leased from privately-owned providers.

In addition, during July 2004-April 2005, 85 NHS sites also received mobile MRI scanning services as part of the Alliance Medical mobile MRI procurement programme.

Information on hospitals with MRI and CT scanners and NHS sites which have received mobile services has been placed in the Library.

Childhood Leukaemia (Power Lines)

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to fund research projects into whether electromagnetic fields are a cause of childhood leukaemia; [4423]

(2) what advice she is giving to *(a)* other Government Departments and *(b)* local authorities with regard to the construction of new homes and schools in the vicinity of overhead power lines following publication of the Draper Report. [4424]

Caroline Flint: The Department provides funding under its radiation protection research programme for investigating the potential biological and health effects of electromagnetic fields at power frequencies. The work by Dr. Draper and colleagues on leukaemia and distance from power lines, recently published in the *British Medical Journal*, was funded under this programme (BMJ Vol. 330, 4 June 2005). The Department, together with the Health and Safety Executive, has also supported the World Health Organization (WHO) electromagnetic fields project since 1997. The WHO is due to review the health risks from power frequency fields later this year. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has statutory responsibilities to advise on health risks from electromagnetic exposure and undertakes its own research to support this advice.

In 2004, on the basis of a comprehensive review of the existing body of research to date, the HPA's radiation protection division, previously the National Radiological Protection Board, recommended that in view of the scientific uncertainties the Government "consider the need for further precautionary measures" in relation to power frequency electromagnetic fields. It has also noted that the majority of higher magnetic fields are due to variations in the electricity supply and distribution system, the presence of substations and equipment in the home rather than proximity to power lines. Practical precautionary measures are now being considered in detail by a stakeholder group that includes Government Departments, agencies, the electricity industry, specialists and public concern groups. The latest work by Dr. Draper has increased the interest in these issues but the complex nature of the scientific and social issues mean that no immediate decisions will be made.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is taking following the findings of the Draper report on the relationship between childhood leukaemia and proximity to high voltage power lines. [4552]

Caroline Flint: The recent publication by Dr. Draper and colleagues on leukaemia and distance from power lines have reinforced the need for continued departmental support for research into the causes of leukaemia and the role of electromagnetic fields (EMF). Measurements of EMF will be included in the next phase of Dr. Draper's work. The Department, together with the Health and Safety Executive, is continuing to fund the World Health Organisation (WHO) EMF project that started in 1997. The WHO is due to review the health risks from power frequency fields later this year.

The Health Protection Agency's (HPA) radiation protection division (RPD), which have statutory responsibilities to advise on health risks from electromagnetic field exposure, also undertakes research in support of its advice. In 2004, the HPA-RPD, when it was the National Radiological Protection Board, published a comprehensive scientific review in support of its new EMF guidelines. It recommended that, in view of the scientific uncertainties in relation to power frequency EMF, the Government should

"consider the need for further precautionary measures".

The HPA have also noted that the majority of higher magnetic fields are due to variations in the electricity supply and distribution system, the presence of substations and equipment in the home rather than proximity to power lines.

In addition to funding research, therefore, the Department is leading a stakeholder group to consider practical precautionary measures. The group includes Government departments, agencies, the electricity industry, specialists and public concern groups. The latest work by Dr. Draper has increased the interest in these issues but the complex nature of the scientific and social issues mean that no immediate decisions will be made.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research her Department has carried out into *(a)* the causes of childhood leukaemia and *(b)* whether there is a link with electromagnetic fields; [4634]

(2) what assessment she has made of whether there is a link between electricity pylons and cancer in children; and if she will make a statement. [4644]

Caroline Flint: The Department provides funding under its radiation protection research programme for investigating the potential biological and health effects of electromagnetic fields at power frequencies. The work by Dr. Draper and colleagues on leukaemia and distance from power lines, recently published in the *British Medical Journal*, was funded under this programme

(BMJ Vol. 330, 4 June 2005). Electromagnetic field measurements will be included in the next phase of this study.

Details of other research concerned with childhood leukaemia supported by the National Cancer Research Institute's 15 partners, the largest Government and charitable funders of cancer research in the United Kingdom, can be found on the international cancer research portfolio database at www.cancerportfolio.org/faq.jsf#icrp.

The Department, together with the Health and Safety Executive, has supported the World Health Organization (WHO) electromagnetic fields project since 1997. The WHO is due to review the health risks from power frequency fields later this year. The Health Protection Agency (HPA), which has statutory responsibilities to advise on health risks from electromagnetic exposure, undertakes its own research to support this advice.

In 2004, on the basis of a comprehensive review of the existing body of research to date, the HPA's radiation protection division, previously the National Radiological Protection Board, recommended that, in view of the scientific uncertainties, the Government

"consider the need for further precautionary measures"

in relation to power frequency electromagnetic fields. It has also noted that the majority of higher magnetic fields are due to variations in the electricity supply and distribution system, the presence of substations and equipment in the home, rather than proximity to power lines. Practical precautionary measures are now being considered in detail by a stakeholder group that includes Government Departments, agencies, the electricity industry, specialists and public concern groups. The latest work by Dr. Draper has increased the interest in these issues but the complex nature of the scientific and social issues mean that no immediate decisions will be made.

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in her Department in 2004–05. [4542]

Jane Kennedy: In the 2004 pre-Budget report, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer reported Office of Government Commerce (OGC) value for money gains in central civil Government procurement for 2003–04 of £2 billion. OGC value for money procurement gains for 2004–05 are being calculated and will be published in the 2005 Treasury autumn performance report.

In the Budget 2005, my right hon. Friend announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a gross reduction of 84,000 civil service and administrative posts by 2008.

The reduction of posts within the Department for the year 2004–05 are shown in the table.

Strength	*Full time equivalents*
April 2004	2,964
April 2005	[1]2,189

[1] Of which 139 are designated to transfer.

Consultant Cardiologists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount consultant cardiologists were working in the NHS in each year since 1997; if she will estimate the optimum number of consultant cardiologists required by the NHS in England; and if she will make a statement. [3362]

Mr. Byrne: The number of headcount and full-time equivalent consultant cardiologists working in the national health service in each year since 1997 is shown in the table.

Hospital, public health medicine and community health services medical consultants with a specialty in cardiology: England

	Number	*Number (headcount) and full- time equivalent*
1997	405	364
1998	458	415
1999	467	425
2000	546	483
2001	576	512
2002	609	561
2003	659	609
2004	710	663
December 2004	716	667

Note:
All data as at 30 September each year, except where stated for 31 December 2004.
Source:
NHS health and social care information centre medical and dental workforce census.

NHS plan commitments to increase the number of cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons between 1999 and 2004 have been exceeded.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to analyse their local situation and develop plans, in liaison with their local NHS trusts, to deliver high quality cardiology services and recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver these services.

Contraceptive Pill

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for the contraceptive pill were made in *(a)* 2002–03 and *(b)* 2003–04. [3385]

Jane Kennedy: The number of prescription items of contraceptives dispensed in the community in England was 8.6 million in 2002–03 and 8.7 million in 2003–04.

Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes on the Food Standards Agency will reply to the letter *(a)* from the hon. Member for Totnes dated 17 March and *(b)* from the

director of Genetic Food Alert dated 6 December 2004; and if she will make a statement on the reasons for the time to respond. [4780]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The chairman of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) replied to the letter from the director of Genetic Food Alert on 14 June 2005. A reply to the letter from the hon. Member will be forwarded by the secretary of the ACNFP upon receipt of a copy of the reply issued by the ACNFP chairman.

A delay was incurred in replying to this letter due to the need for further information to be collated in relation to the request from Genetic Food Alert.

Dentistry

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time dentists there were in 1997; and how many there were in the last period for which figures are available. [4361]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on a whole time equivalent basis is not available, as dentists are able to vary the amount of hours they work and to vary their national health service commitment.

The numbers of NHS primary care dentists in England for each of the years requested are shown in the table.

Year[1]	*Number*
1997	16,462
2005	20,088

[1] As at 31 March each year

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered dentists are practising in Sussex; and what the number was in 1997. [4473]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority area, the numbers of national health service dentists in each of the years requested are shown in the following table.

	Number
1997[1]	1,111
2005[1]	1,388

[1] As at 31 March each year.

Note:
This data is from the Dental Practice Board and relates to the number of dentists working in the general dental service and personal dental service. This is the latest available data as of 1 March 2005.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Government will support the establishment of a new dental school at Southampton University. [4561]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* We are funding the biggest expansion of dental education since the inception of the national health service, involving the creation of an additional 170 training places for dental undergraduates. To support this 25 per cent., increase in capacity, we have allocated revenue funds growing to £29 million by 2010–11 and £20 million capital in each of the four years 2005–06 to 2008–09. A joint implementation group (JIG) comprising the Department and the Higher Education Funding Council for England is managing the expansion programme. The JIG invited all higher education institutions in England to make expressions of interest in having a new dental school by 26 May. These bids will be evaluated by the JIG at its meeting on 22 June and the short-listed respondents will be asked to submit a full business case and to make a presentation to the JIG later in the year.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the statement by the Under-Secretary of State for Health on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 114WH, on NHS dentistry, whether all those people registered as NHS patients at Robinsons dental practice will be able to migrate to the Whitecross dental care practice; and when the Whitecross dental practice will be operating with five full-time dentists; [4668]

(2) pursuant to the statement by the Under-Secretary of State for Health on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 114WH, on NHS dentistry, what the conclusions were of the meeting between local practitioners and her Department on 8th June. [4669]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* The meeting between officials in the Department and the South and East Dorset Primary Care Trust (PCT) on June 8 2005 was positive. A number of applications for local practitioners to move to personal dental services (PDS) pilot contracts were reviewed, including the establishment of new practices. The applications for two of the new practices were subsequently agreed by the Department on June 10 2005, including the application for the new Whitecross dental practice in Christchurch. The two new practices will include a total of nine new full-time national health service dentists, delivering care to 22,500 patients. The PCT has assured me that all patients currently registered as NHS patients at the Robinsons dental practice will be able to transfer to the new Whitecross dental practice in Christchurch when it becomes operational in August 2005.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the number of trainee dentists in dental schools planning to undertake only NHS work when qualified. [3440]

Ms. Rosie Winterton: Each year, some 700 students graduate from dental schools in the United Kingdom. Almost all these newly qualified dentists undertake one year's vocational training in an attachment to a dental practice where patients are treated under the national health service. Through our reforms, we are seeking to make NHS dentistry more attractive to dentists so that, when they become eligible to practise independently, they maintain a significant commitment to the NHS.

Diabetes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding has been allocated to research into the causes of diabetes in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [3068]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is

an independent body, funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

The MRC does not normally allocate funds to particular topics. Research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. When appropriate, high quality research in particular areas of strategic importance may be given priority in competition for funds, but research excellence and importance to health continues to be the primary considerations in funding decisions. The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding.

MRC expenditure on research concerned with diabetes since 1999[1] is shown in table 1.

[1] A composite figure for 2003–04 is not yet available.

Table 1

£ million

	Amount
1999–2000	6.5
2000–01	8.6
2001–02	9.8
2002–03	11.4

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Table 2 shows NHS-reported spending from this funding in support of diabetes[1].

[1] This data was not collected centrally prior to 2001.

Table 2

£ million

	Amount
2001–02	13.9
2002–03	17.5
2003–04	18.2

Health Finance (Oxfordshire)

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been allocated to each of the health trusts serving Oxfordshire for 2005–06; and what the amount was in each of the previous five years. [4571]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* In 2000–01 to 2002–03, revenue allocations were made to health authorities (HAs). Table 1 shows the 2000–01 to 2002–03 revenue allocations to Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire HAs. This area is now covered by Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

Table 1: Revenue allocations to HAs 2000–01 to 2002–03

HA name	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Berkshire	484,623	527,723	588,572
Buckinghamshire	407,599	443,321	493,959
Oxfordshire	364,378	396,426	445,458

2003–04 was the first time revenue allocations were made to primary care trusts (PCTs) for three years. Thames Valley SHA covers the Oxfordshire area. Table 2 shows the allocations made to those PCTs covered by the Thames Valley SHA for 2003–04 to 2005–06.

Table 2: Revenue allocations to PCTs within Thames Valley SHA

PCT name	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*
Bracknell Forest	76,897	83,840	91,268
Newbury and Community	74,039	81,251	89,016
Reading	160,450	175,771	192,392
Slough	98,923	108,728	119,200
Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead	129,700	141,407	153,916
Wokingham	100,104	109,406	119,512
Chiltern and South Bucks	117,675	128,126	139,308
Milton Keynes	167,638	183,498	200,679
Vale of Aylesbury	143,593	157,179	171,899
Wycombe	107,852	117,956	128,925
Cherwell Vale	91,592	100,434	109,922
North East Oxfordshire	50,193	54,983	60,151
Oxford City	142,974	155,681	169,243
South East Oxfordshire	57,710	63,163	69,075
South West Oxfordshire	139,950	152,859	166,890

Note:

Comparisons cannot be made between allocation rounds. Prior to 2003–04 revenue allocations were made to HAs on an annual basis. In 2003–04, revenue allocations were for the first time made direct to PCTs for three years. In addition, comparisons cannot be made between allocations rounds, as the services covered by each allocation round may vary.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports she has received of financial difficulties facing health trusts in Oxfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [4572]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* There have been no representations from Oxfordshire national health service trusts about financial difficulties. Oxfordshire health trusts all submitted balanced delivery plans.

It is now the responsibility of strategic health authorities to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure the local NHS achieves financial balance.

Hearing Aids

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for digital hearing aids is in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* England. [4779]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Heart Disease (Children)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been treated for heart disease; how many have been screened for signs of heart defects; and how many children have died from heart-related conditions in each of the last five years. [4466]

Mr. Byrne: Table 1 following shows numbers of admissions for cardiac conditions for children under 16 in England in the last five years for which data is available.

Table 1

	Admissions
1999–2000	2,125
2000–01	2,089
2001–02	2,232
2002–03	2,312
2003–04	2,475

Source:
Hospital episode statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre. Figures are for cardiac conditions as a primary diagnosis. Patients may have more than one admission in a year.

No data is available on screening of children for signs of heart defects.

Table 2 following shows the latest available data on child deaths from heart-related conditions. In this table, children are defined as those under 16 years old, including neonates.

Table 2

	Deaths
1999	872
2000	781
2001	667
2002	621
2003	663

Source:
Office of National Statistics mortality data. Figures are for all deaths in England and Wales where heart disease is mentioned in the death certificate and include congenital malformations.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on changes to services at Hemel Hempstead hospital. [3991]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 1 January 2004, the Department has received several written representations from the hon. Member, hon. and right hon. Members both past and present and members of the public about Hemel Hempstead hospital.

Hepatitis C

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will update the Action Plan on hepatitis C. [3137]

Caroline Flint: The Hepatitis C Action Plan was published in July 2004. It serves as a broad framework for implementation of the Government's Hepatitis C Strategy for England Many of the actions set out in the plan will take time to effect. Implementation of the plan will be assessed via ongoing epidemiological surveillance and performance management. There are currently no plans to update the action plan.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people infected with hepatitis C; and how many people are currently receiving treatment for it. [4461]

Caroline Flint: It is estimated that around 200,000 people in England have been chronically infected with hepatitis C, though the majority may not be aware of their infection.

Currently treatment is not recommended for all patients diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C. In 2004, the then National Institute for Clinical Excellence, now the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, recommended treatment for cases of moderate to severe chronic hepatitis. Cases with mild disease should remain under observation. Treatment is for a finite time; either six or 12 months. The Department does not hold figures for those currently receiving treatment.

Hertfordshire Hospitals

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list Hertfordshire hospitals which had ward closures in each year since May 1997, broken down by medical specialty. [4001]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. However, the opening and closing of wards is commonplace, to reflect demand and operational need at individual national health service trusts.

London Ambulance Service

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response her Department has made to the London Ambulance Service Patients Forum's letter of 11 May concerning the proliferation of mimic emergency ambulances in London. [3305]

Mr. Byrne: A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change in spending on mental health services has been in cash terms and as a percentage of overall NHS spending in each of the last five years. [4637]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest information available on national health service hospital and community health service (HCHS) expenditure is at 31 March 2003. The data shown in the table excludes social care spend on people with mental health problems and expenditure concerning people treated in primary care for whom specific diagnosis has not been reached. The figures therefore underestimate the total mental health expenditure.

Mental health service: NHS HCHS programme gross expenditure in cash terms over the five years from 1998–99 to 2002–03 in England

	1998–99	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Gross expenditure (cash terms)					
Total mental health (£ million)	3,051	3,411	3,826	4,062	4,598
Total increase in cash terms (£ million)	—	360	415	236	536
Total HCHS	25,494	27,633	30,099	31,977	35,087
Mental health proportion (percentages)	11.97	12.34	12.71	12.70	13.11

Mixed Sex Wards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals are operating mixed sex wards. [4635]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department do not collect information on the number of single-sex or mixed-sex wards in use in national health service hospitals.

Guidance issued to the NHS requires the provision of single-sex accommodation, which can take a number of forms. NHS trusts may provide single rooms, single-sex bays, single-sex wards or combinations of these accommodation types.

The provision of single-sex accommodation is measured by compliance with three specific objectives set by the Department. These are designed to deliver separate sleeping areas for men and women, separate bathrooms and toilet facilities for men and women, and for those trusts delivering mental health services, safe facilities for patients in hospital who are mentally ill.

Compliance with the objectives is measured at trust level. The position of each NHS trust was published on 26 May 2005 and is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk and in the Library.

Mobile Telephones

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 531–32W, on mobile telephones, if she will commission research into the effect of interference from a mobile phone in a breast pocket on the variables in the dynamic equilibrium that forms part of the cardio-vascular system. [4663]

Caroline Flint: The Department has no immediate plans to commission further research into the effect of interference from a mobile phone on the cardiovascular system. The mobile telecommunications and health research (MTHR) programme in this country supports a range of studies including one on the effects of mobile phones on blood pressure and cardiac function in healthy people. The decisions on the scientific research priorities for this programme are in the hands of an independent programme management committee. Details of the MTHR programme and descriptions of all the studies are available on the MTHR website at www.mthr.org.uk.

Mumps

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of mumps among children have been reported in the last 12 months. [4641]

Mr. Byrne: The provisional annual total for laboratory confirmed cases of mumps aged under 15 years in 2004 is 736 and the provisional total for the first 22 weeks of 2005 is 1,149.

Information about confirmed cases of mumps by age and region is available on the Health Protection Agency's website at www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/mumps/data_reg age_htm.

Neonatal Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mortality rate for *(a)* babies and *(b)* infants was in each of the last 10 years. [4471]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Tim Loughton, dated 20 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the mortality rate for *(a)* babies and *(b)* infants was in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in his absence. (4471)

Figures on infant mortality are available by age at death for England and Wales. The most recent year for which figures are available is 2003. Numbers and rates in each of the last 10 years are shown in the attached table.

Infant mortality numbers and rates by age at death; 1994 to 2003, England and Wales

	Early neonatal (< 7 days)		*Neonatal (< 28 days)*		*Infant (< 1 year)*	
	Number	*Rate*[1]	*Number*	*Rate*[1]	*Number*	*Rate*[1]
1994	2,142	3.2	2,749	4.1	4,120	6.2
1995	2,104	3.2	2,698	4.2	3,982	6.1
1996	2,066	3.2	2,645	4.1	3,959	6.1
1997	1,941	3.0	2,517	3.9	3,799	5.9
1998	1,844	2.9	2,418	3.8	3,625	5.7
1999	1,833	2.9	2,435	3.9	3,621	5.8
2000	1,753	2.9	2,335	3.9	3,377	5.6
2001	1,598	2.7	2,137	3.6	3,240	5.4
2002	1,620	2.7	2,126	3.6	3,127	5.2
2003	1,749	2.8	2,264	3.6	3,306	5.3

[1] Rates per 1,000 live births

Sources:

Series DH3 'Mortality statistics: Childhood, infant and perinatal' No. 36, Table 1

NHS Direct

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed by NHS Direct at 31 December *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2002 and *(d)* 2001; and if she will make a statement. [2883]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not collected centrally by the Department. However, the NHS Direct special health authority collects information on the number of nurses and call handlers in post for years 2002, 2003 and 2004, as shown in the following table. Data prior to 2002 is not available.

December	*Nurse*[1]	*Call handler*[1]
2002	1,037	516
2003	1,054	569
2004	1,034	611

[1] Data are shown as full time equivalent.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation has taken place of the performance of NHS Direct; and if she will make a statement. [2885]

Mr. Byrne: Two evaluations have been made regarding NHS Direct, which can be found at: www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/mcru/reports.htm and www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/Homepage/fs/en

NHS Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the *(a)* Thames Valley strategic health authority, *(b)* Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust, *(c)* Wycombe Primary Care Trust, *(d)* Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust and *(e)* Two Shires Ambulance Trust is in (i) surplus and (ii) deficit; and if she will make a statement. [3235]

Caroline Flint: The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2003–04. The financial position for Thames Valley strategic health authority (SHA), Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Wycombe primary care trust (PCT), Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust and Two Shires Ambulance Trust is shown in the table.

Financial position of NHS organisations for 2003–04

Organisation	*Underspend*	*(Overspend)*
Thames Valley SHA	4,221,000	—
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	—	(5,237,000)
Wycombe PCT	536,000	—
Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust	—	(1,689,000)
Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust	3,000	—

Prescription Charges

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on establishing more exemptions from prescription charges for patients with long-term conditions. [2753]

Jane Kennedy: Representations received since 1 January 2005 have been identified in respect of the following long-term conditions:

Alzheimer's disease/dementia
Arthritis
Asthma
Cancer
Coeliac
Crohn's disease
Cystic fibrosis
Foot conditions
Hearing impairment
Heart condition
Hormone replacement treatment
Hypertension
Impotence
Kidney transplants
Klinefelter syndrome
Lupus
Mental health (various)
Multiple sclerosis
Optical and dental care
Pancreatitis (chronic)
Spina bifida
Thrombosis
Turner's syndrome
Ulcerative colitis.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the Private Finance Initiative and Public Private Partnership projects her Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2365]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is given as follows. The list is broken down into three categories: private finance initiative (PFI), national health service local improvement finance trust (LIFT) schemes and treatment centres. It lists those that are operational and those that have reached financial close but are not providing a full service.

PFI Schemes

1. Operational

Dartford and Gravesham Hospital NHS Trust
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust
Queen Mary's hospital Sidcup NHS Trust
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust
Queens Medical Centre Nottingham University NHS Trust
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
West Sussex Health and Social Care Trust
South Tees Acute Hospital NHS Trust
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust
King's College Hospital NHS Trust
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust
Oxleas NHS Trust
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust
Cornwall Healthcare NHS Trust
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust—Hexham
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford PCT
Guildford and Waverley PCT
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust—Chester-le-Street
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust—West Park
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Brent PCT
Mid Devon PCT
Newbury PCT

2. Under construction

University College London Hospitals NHS Trust
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust—Central Middlesex
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust—Blackburn
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust—Royal Alexander
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust
Derby Hospitals NHS Trust
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust—Oncology
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust
Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust—City Hospital
North Kirklees PCT
Wandsworth PCT—Queen Mary's Roehampton
Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust
Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust—Morpeth
Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust—Burnley
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust—Stoke Mandeville
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
New Forest PCT—Lymington
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Trust—Addenbrookes
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Daventry and South Northamptonshire PCT

NHS LIFT Projects

1. Operational

East London and City
Barnsley
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan
Norfolk
Newcastle and North Tyne
East Lancashire
Sandwell
Barking and Havering
Liverpool and Sefton

2. Under Construction

Camden and Islington
Manchester, Salford and Trafford
Birmingham and Solihull
Bradford
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Coventry
Hull
Leicester City
Medway
North Staffordshire
Redbridge and Waltham Forest
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey
Brent, Harrow and Hillingdon
Bristol
Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich
Colchester and Tendring
Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow
East Hampshire, Fareham and Gosport
Greater Nottingham
Leeds
Oldham
Oxford City
Plymouth
Southern Derbyshire
South West London
St. Helens and Knowsley
Tees Valley
Wolverhampton

Treatment centres

1. Operational

Daventry
Greater Manchester
Plymouth
Redwood
Opthalmology Chain—ophthalmology activity delivered through a number of mobile treatment facilities
Spine chain—eight treatment centres
MRI scanning and reporting—12 mobile magnetic resonance imaging scanning units visit NHS sites nationally.
Plus elective activity delivered through a number of existing independent sector treatment centres around the country.

2. Under Construction

Bradford
Burton
Trent
Somerset
Worcestershire, Cheshire and Merseyside—two treatment centres
South East—four treatment centres
Plus elective activity delivered through a number of existing independent sector treatment centres around the country.

Sudden Cardiac Deaths

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of sudden cardiac death were reported in Gloucestershire in the last year for which figures are available; and how many were people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 19 to 25 and *(c)* 26 to 35 years. [4343]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Drew, dated 20 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of sudden cardiac deaths were reported in Gloucestershire in the last year for which figures are available; and how many were people were aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 19 to 35 and *(c)* 26 to 35 years. (4343)

It is not possible to provide reliable figures on the number of cardiac deaths which occurred suddenly, as certifiers are not required to indicate at death registration whether or not a death was sudden. Figures are therefore provided for all heart diseases, sudden cardiac death (so described), acute ischaemic heart disease and cardiac arrhythmias.[1]

Figures are provided in the table below for 2004, the latest year for which data are currently available.

Number of deaths from (a) all heart diseases, (b) sudden cardiac death, so described, (c) acute ischaemic heart disease and (d) cardiac arrhythmias1 in persons, by age, for usual residents of Gloucestershire registered in 2004

Numbers of deaths

		Under 18	*18–25*	*26–35*	*All ages*
(a)	AH heart diseases	1	0	1	1,334
(b)	Sudden cardiac death, so described	0	0	0	2
(c)	Acute ischaemic heart disease	0	0	0	514
(d)	Cardiac arrhythmias	0	0	0	29

[1] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10). Deaths were selected where the original underlying cause of death was one of the following codes:

AII heart diseases ICD-10 120–15

Sudden cardiac death, so described ICD-10146.1

Acute ischaemic heart disease ICD-JO121

Cardiac arrhythmias ICD-10144–149.

Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed by the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority. [4458]

Caroline Flint: Information about the number of people directly employed by the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS) medical and non-medical staff, within Surrey and Sussex SHA organisation

As at 30 September 2004

	Number (headcount)
All staff	139
of which:	
HCHS medical and dental staff	10
All non-medical staff	129
of which:	
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2
Qualified nurses	1
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical	1
NHS infrastructure support	127
Central functions	72
Managers and senior managers	55

Source:

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre non-medical workforce census 2004.

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre medical and dental workforce census 2004.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has been the budget of the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority in each year since its inception; and what its budget is for 2005–06. [4459]

Caroline Flint: The first full year of operation for Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) was 2003–04. The SHA budgets for 2003–04 and 2004–05 are shown in the following table. The budget for 2005–06 has not yet been finalised.

Surrey and Sussex SHA budget

£ thousand

	Budget
2003–04	4,700
2004–05	5,057

Tourist Health (Cornwall)

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations she has received regarding payment to NHS and primary care trusts in Cornwall for treating tourists from other parts of the UK in the summer months; if she will ensure that appropriate payment is made to NHS and primary care trusts for such treatment; and if she will make a statement; [3753]

(2) whether the formula for allocating funding to *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts in Cornwall takes account of the costs of administering the recovery of payments for treating tourists from other parts of the UK in the summer months. [3754]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The Department has received no recent representations on this matter. There are procedures in place for the funding and reimbursement of the costs of treating patients away from their home and these are available on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/92/19/04109219.pdf.

With the introduction of payment by results, we are introducing a new system based on quarterly billing, which is designed to reimburse providers in a more timely manner while keeping administration costs to a minimum. The new approach is based on in-year activity, so areas with increased activity will be reimbursed within year.

The formula used to inform the revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) does not specifically take account of the administrative costs associated with the recovery of payments for treating tourists from other parts of the UK in the summer months. The administrative cost of the process for reimbursing for out of area treatments falls on all PCTs, and there should not be a material difference in these costs between PCTs.

Trust Staff

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* clinical and *(b)* non-clinical NHS staff have been employed in Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth primary care trust in each year since 1997. [3320]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS) staff, general medical practitioners and practice staff, clinical and non-clinical staff in specified organisations, 1997–2004: England

Numbers (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Q26—Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority	29,047	30,148	30,156	31,183
Total clinical staff	13,527	14,014	14,210	14,478
All doctors	2,127	2,188	2,303	2,252
of which				
HCHS Doctors[1]	1,335	1,375	1,473	1,414
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]	792	813	830	838
HCHS non-medical clinical staff[3]	10,626	11,143	11,353	11,614
GP practice nurses	774	683	554	612
Total non-clinical staff	15,520	16,134	15,946	16,705
HCHS non-medical non-clinical staff[4]	12,840	13,285	13,709	13,919
Practice staff (excluding practice nurses)[5]	2,680	2,849	2,237	2,786
5DQ—Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth primary care trust	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Total clinical staff	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
All doctors	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
of which				
HCHS doctors[1]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
HCHS non-medical clinical staff[3]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
GP practice nurses	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Total non-clinical staff	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
HCHS non-medical non-clinical staff[4]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Practice staff (excluding practice nurses)[5]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Q26—Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority	32,269	33,598	35,458	35,882
Total clinical staff	15,421	15,933	16,724	17,295
All doctors	2,272	2,424	2,583	2,770
of which				
HCHS Doctors[1]	1,447	1,563	1,686	1,825
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]	825	861	897	945
HCHS non-medical clinical staff[3]	12,554	12,879	13,493	13,883
GP practice nurses	595	630	648	642
Total non-clinical staff	16,848	17,665	18,734	18,587
HCHS non-medical non-clinical staff[4]	14,642	15,378	16,195	16,158
Practice staff (excluding practice nurses)[5]	2,206	2,287	2,539	2,429
5DQ—Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth primary care trust	548	966	1,154	1,082
Total clinical staff	254	514	571	589
All doctors	82	86	94	104
of which				
HCHS doctors[1]	[7]—	1	2	1
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers)[2]	82	85	92	103
HCHS non-medical clinical staff[3]	111	366	407	453
GP practice nurses	61	62	70	32
Total non-clinical staff	294	452	583	493
HCHS non-medical non-clinical staff[4]	58	298	301	364
Practice staff (excluding practice nurses)[5]	236	154	282	129

[1] Excludes hospital medical hospital practitioners and hospital medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GP's general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004, this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.
[3] Non-medical clinical staff are qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff and qualified ambulance staff.
[4] Non-medical non-clinical staff are support to clinical staff, national health service infrastructure support staff and a number of unknown and unclassifiable staff.
[5] Practice staff (excluding practice nurses) includes direct patient care, administrative and clerical staff and other.
[6] Denotes zero
[7] Denotes not available
Notes:
Data as at 30 September each year except GP and practice nurse data, which is as at 1 October 1997–99.
Sources:
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre GMS and PMS statistics.
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre medical and dental workforce census.
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre non-medical workforce census.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Advice to Cabinet

Lynne Jones: To ask the Solicitor-General on how many occasions since 1997 law officers' advice had been presented to the Cabinet orally, prior to the Attorney-General's oral presentation to the Cabinet of his advice on the legality of the war in Iraq. [5919]

The Solicitor-General: The proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings are not normally disclosed, in order to ensure the protection of information whose disclosure would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Camp Breadbasket

Adam Price: To ask the Solicitor-General what action the Government have taken as a result of the witness statements from Camp Breadbasket victims sent to the Attorney-General earlier this year. [5541]

The Solicitor-General: Three short unsigned draft witness statements were provided by a solicitor Mr. Phil Shiner to the Army Prosecuting Authority. The prosecutor decided not to seek an adjournment because there was inadequate evidence to confirm the authenticity of the statements, the trial was at an advanced state, and it was not possible to ascertain the required length of the potential adjournment as there was insufficient information to identify the whereabouts of the makers. As the statements appear to support charges other than those before the court, if the witnesses can be identified, further charges can be brought. The material was provided to the defence who also took the view that they did not wish to seek an adjournment, so the trial continued.

The Judge Advocate was made aware of the existence of the material but was not asked for any ruling on it.

The material was passed to the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police who have twice written to Mr. Shiner to seek his assistance in identifying the makers of the draft statements. This has proved difficult because though they are identified by name and employment, no address is provided and so it is not possible to trace them. Mr. Shiner replied on 21 April saying that he would provide a substantive reply within 28 days. No further reply has been received. While the RMP will seek to trace the makers of the draft statements, on the basis of the scant information provided it may not be possible.

Domestic Violence Homicide Cases

Julie Morgan: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will make a statement on prosecutions of domestic violence homicide cases. [4879]

The Solicitor-General: We are committed to tackling domestic violence on every front. Although domestic violence is chronically under-reported, research indicates that it accounts for 16 per cent. of all violent crime and claims the lives of two women each week.

The Crown Prosecution Service recognises that stopping domestic violence and bringing perpetrators to justice must be a priority for our society. It is determined to play its part by prosecuting all such cases, including homicides, effectively.

Iraq

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the advice set out in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Attorney's advice on the legality of war in Iraq on 17 March 2003 remains the policy of the Law Officers. [5662]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General, in his parliamentary statement of 17 March 2003, set out his view that the use of force in Iraq was lawful. He considers that any challenge to the use of force would not succeed.

NHS Staff (Attacks)

Mr. Baron: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will assess the merits of issuing guidance similar to that issued in Scotland by the Lord Advocate on decisions to prosecute those who attack health service staff in the summary court or on indictment to the Crown Prosecution Service in respect of similar cases in England and Wales. [5365]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decides whether or not to prosecute those who attack health service staff in accordance with the principles set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

The code already provides that a prosecution is likely to be in the public interest if the offence was committed against a person serving the; public, and illustrates the point with the example of a nurse. As such, existing guidance to prosecutors in England and Wales favours the prosecution of anyone assaulting health service staff. There are no plans to change this.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what value-for-money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in her Department in 2004–05. [4550]

Ms Harman: In pre-Budget report 2004 the Chancellor reported OGC value for money gains in central civil Government procurement for 2003–04 of £2 billion. OGC value for money procurement gains for 2004–05 are being calculated and will be published in the 2005 Treasury Autumn Performance report.

In Budget 2005 the Chancellor announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a gross reduction of 84,000 civil service and administrative posts by 2008.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs were not required to make a contribution to the headcount reduction of 12,500 by the end of 2004–05. The Department's target headcount reduction over the SR 04 period is 1,100 by March 2008.

Community Justice Centre (Liverpool)

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of defendants attending the Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool have *(a)* re-offended and *(b)* complied with their sentence since the centre opened. [5164]

Ms Harman: Between 14 December 2004 and 5 May 2005 34 community sentences have been made (only one offender had more than one case). Of those 33 offenders three have been convicted of a further offence while nine have breached their order.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of crime figures in the area covered by the Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool over the period during which the centre has been in operation. [5165]

Ms Harman: The geographical area covered by the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre, shows a small decrease in 'all crime' between January and June this year, when compared with a similar period in 2004.

At this stage we are unable to break that 'all crime' category down into the CJC targeted offences.

It is too early in the pilot to assess the impact of what is being done at the Centre and its relationship to crime in the area it serves.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many defendants have attended the Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool. [5166]

Ms Harman: Between 9 December 2004 and 10 June2005 over 385 defendants have appeared before His Honour Judge Fletcher, at the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre.

The figures can be further broken down into 349 adult defendants and 39 youth defendants.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of Community Justice Centres following the North Liverpool pilot. [5167]

Ms Harman: The North Liverpool Community Justice Centre is a pilot. It will be fully evaluated to examine whether the Community Justice Centre model should be replicated. In the interim, a second initiative is being developed in Salford. This will test how Community Justice principles, such as responding to local people's priorities about antisocial behaviour, can be applied in magistrates courts. These are the only projects currently planned. Any decisions about the development of future Community Justice initiatives will be taken following the evaluations of these projects.

Coronors Act

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on how many occasions the procedure provided for under Section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988 has been implemented since 1 January 2000. [5216]

Ms Harman: Section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988 has been invoked six times since 1 January 2000.

Criminal Justice

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many personnel are employed by the Department to explain the operation of the criminal justice system to the public. [2828]

Ms Harman: As at 1 April 2005 the Department for Constitutional Affairs employed a total of 15,173 staff working in criminal justice related roles. Of these 12,243 are in the magistrates courts, 2,673 in the Crown court (including those in combined courts); and 115 in the Criminal Appeals Office. Her Majesty's Courts Service, an executive agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs, also employs 142 staff in central roles relating to Criminal Justice.

Whilst these staff are trained in customer service skills, it is not possible to identify those whose role directly involves explaining the operation of the Criminal Justice system to the public.

Crown Court Trials

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many trials in the Crown court lasted for a duration of nine months or more in each of the last 10 years. [1760]

Ms Harman: I will write to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire once the information is available.

Data Protection Act

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what concerns the European Commission has formally expressed in relation to the definition of personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998; and if she will make a statement on the implementation of the definition of personal data in Directive 95/46/EC; [4597]

(2) what concerns the European Commission has formally expressed in relation to the powers of the Information Commissioner under the Data Protection Act 1998; [4598]

(3) whether she will list the concerns that the European Commission has formally expressed in relation to the provisions in the Data Protection Act 1998 which pertain to the transfer of personal data outside the European economic area, and if she will make a statement on the implementation of articles 25 and 26 of Directive 95/46/EC through the Data Protection Act 1998. [4599]

Bridget Prentice: The European Commission, as part of its review of the implementation of the 1995 Data Protection Directive by each member state, have raised a number of issues with the UK. We are in discussion with the Commission about these issues. We currently have no plans to disclose the detail of those discussions as the formal Commission investigation process is still taking place. If the Government were to disclose the information requested, it would prejudice the negotiating process between the UK and the Commission and so prejudice UK interests. We believe that the UK *has* properly implemented the Data Protection Directive via the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant provisions of UK law.

Faith Communities (Consultations)

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent consultations have been carried out by her Department with representatives of faith communities; and if she will make a statement. [3227]

Ms Harman: Within the last twelve months, there have been six consultations with faith communities by officials of this Department.

There were two consultations regarding prospective legislation:

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Gender Recognition (Exception to Offence of Disclosure) Order

One regarding diversity in the judiciary:

Increasing Diversity in the Judiciary

Three regarding children's issues:

Review of looked After Children'

Draft Court Rules Adoption and Children Act 2002

Disclosure of information in family proceedings cases involving children

General Election Register (Woking)

John Hemming: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the marked register for the 2005 General Election for the Woking constituency has been lost. [5103]

Ms Harman: The whereabouts of the marked registers for Woking are being investigated by the Returning Officer and the storage company, Pickfords Records Management.

Inquests (Belfast Coroner)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average time between death and inquest in the jurisdiction of the Belfast Coroner was in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [5340]

Bridget Prentice: The average time between death and inquest in the Coroners District of Greater Belfast in the last three years was: 2002—69 weeks, 2003—83 weeks and 2004—87 weeks.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in her Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if she will make a statement. [4130]

Ms Harman: For my Department, information on the number and cost of laptops is available from 1999. Ministers and special advisers have been supplied with laptops since 2003. Information on lost and stolen laptops is available from 1995.

Figures for individual years for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* are as follows:

Number

	(a) Ministers' laptops	*(b) Special advisers' laptops*
2003	3	1
2004	4	1

(c) Number of laptops issued to officials, together with the overall cost of the Department's laptops:

	Number of laptops	*Cost of the use of laptops for the calendar year (£)*
1999	658	101,808
2000	667	120,960
2001	346	132,864
2002	444	361,594
2003	594	630,367
2004	597	700,626

Number of laptops (i) lost or (ii) stolen

	(i) Number of laptops lost	*(ii) Number of laptops stolen*
1995	0	10
1996	0	16
1997	0	4
1998	0	4
1999	0	4
2000	2	3
2001	1	12
2002	1	16
2003	0	6
2004	1	14

Legal Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps the Legal Services Commission are taking to ensure that black and minority ethnic firms are treated fairly in the distribution of legal aid contracts. [5620]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is strongly committed to promoting race equality and eliminating discrimination on the basis of race. Under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the LSC has a statutory obligation to monitor and assess the impact of policies relating to the distribution of legal aid contracts upon different racial groups.

The LSC monitors the diversity of suppliers contracted to provide legal advice and services via an annual survey conducted by the Legal Services Research Centre (LSRC). Results are published on the LSRC website. The findings of these monitoring activities help inform and influence policy-making.

Race equality impact assessments are carried out for any proposal to amend the way in which legal aid contracts are awarded. The LSC consults on race equality impact assessments and encourages BME firms and their representative organisations to respond to consultations.

The LSC is currently tendering for research into the issues faced by BME firms within the legal aid supplier base. The research is due to report in December 2005.

Magistrates

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make it her policy *(a)* to collect data on the socio-economic class of magistrates and *(b)* to track and publish changes in the composition of the magistracy. [5465]

Ms Harman: The Department currently collects data on magistrates grouping them by gender, ethnicity, age, geographical spread, and occupational and industrial categories. There are no plans to change this. The composition of the magistracy is tracked in the groupings stated. Details of age, gender and ethnic background are published annually in Judicial Appointments.

Mental Capacity Act

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the timescale is for public consultation on the details of the role of independent mental capacity advocates. [4775]

Bridget Prentice: The Department of Health intends to hold a full public consultation shortly on a range of issues relating to the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate service.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what plans she has for public awareness campaigns to raise awareness of the codes of practice of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 among the general public; [4810]

(2) what representations she has *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from the voluntary sector on disseminating information about the Mental Capacity Act 2005 codes of practice to family members and carers of incapacitated individuals. [4811]

Bridget Prentice: Disseminating and raising awareness of the Act and code of practice is a key component of our implementation plans. We want to undertake this important work in consultation with stakeholders, including those in the voluntary sector, and are currently seeking views from them on how they will want to work with us in this area of implementation.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what mechanisms her Department will introduce to monitor compliance with the Codes of Practice laid out in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 with regard to *(a)* lasting powers of attorney donees, *(b)* court appointed deputies and *(c)* independent mental capacity advocates. [4852]

Bridget Prentice: Lasting Powers of Attorney and court appointed deputies will be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). The OPG will respond to any complaints about their conduct either directly or in co-ordination with other agencies. Complaints about the conduct of a deputy or attorney might include complaints about an attorney or deputy not complying with their duty to have regard to the Code. In addition deputies will be subject to supervision by the OPG and required to provide reports to the OPG. The Department for Health will issue a consultation paper shortly on details of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service.

Rape Trials

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what proportion of applications to admit previous sexual history in rape trials was successful during *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; [588]

(2) how many applications to admit previous sexual history were made in rape trials in England and Wales in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [592]

Paul Goggins: I have been asked to reply.

Provisions on the admission of evidence and questioning relating to previous sexual history in criminal proceedings are set out in sections 41 to 43 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. The Home Office commissioned London Metropolitan University to carry out during 2003–04 research on the working of these provisions. The findings of this research are due to be published this autumn. Although the statistical data requested are not identifiable within the data regularly collected centrally, this research study

is expected to provide some information on the proportion of rape trials in which applications to admit previous sexual history evidence are made and the success rate of applications.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Affordable Housing

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many affordable homes have been *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in the last five years in the London borough of Haringey council area; and if he will make a statement. [3079]

Yvette Cooper: The number of affordable homes provided on behalf of Haringey in each of the last five financial years are shown as follows.

	Number
2000–01	265
2001–02	286
2002–03	167
2003–04	349
2004–05	272

Source:
Housing Corporation

In 2004–05 there were 493 starts-on-site on behalf of Haringey (figures for earlier years are not available).

The numbers include homes for both rent and low cost home ownership provided through new build dwellings, acquisitions and refurbishments via the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme including Key Worker Living in 2004–05 and exclude the Transitional Local Authority Social Housing Grant, the Starter Homes Initiative (not delivered through the Approved Development Programme) and S106 agreements where there was no Housing Corporation funding.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Government's definitions are of the terms *(a)* affordable housing and *(b)* key worker. [4276]

Yvette Cooper: The Government defines affordable housing as including social rented housing and other forms of sub-market housing (known as intermediate housing). Sub-market housing include forms of low cost home ownership such as shared ownership and Homebuy and housing available at intermediate rents (above social rent but below market rent).

For the Key Worker Living programme which operates throughout the London, South East and Eastern regions there is a priority list of public sector key worker groups, established in consultation with sponsor Departments/employers who are making a financial contribution to the programme. Key workers being helped through the programme include nurses and other NHS clinical staff, teachers in schools and further education, police officers and some civilian staff in participating police forces, prison and probation service staff, social workers, occupation therapists, education psychologists, fire service staff in Hertfordshire and in London, local authority planners.

Beyond the Key Worker Living programme, there is no set definition. Definitions will vary by scheme and location and will depend on a range of factors including funding sources and local pressures.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps are being taken to ensure an adequate long-term supply of low-cost housing for those with housing needs in Coventry, South. [4822]

Yvette Cooper: It is not possible to provide separate figures for Coventry, South.

£7.4 million was allocated from the Regional Housing Pot, for the period 2004 to 2006, to fund 174 new units of affordable housing in Coventry.

During 2004–05 Coventry city council delivered, across the city, 142 new affordable homes for rent, 21 new shared ownership homes, and 55 homes achieved through S106 planning gain.

Development of the second West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy, which has been subject to broad consultation, will inform Regional Housing Pot allocations for housing in the region for 2006 to 2008, details of which will be announced in December 2005.

The new Strategy, which will shortly be submitted for endorsement by the West Midlands Regional Assembly, has been based on a range of comprehensive research, including a region-wide assessment of the need for affordable housing in the region.

Agricultural Land

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the development of his policy on the sub-division of agricultural land into small plots for sale since his Department's letter of 19 April 2004 to chief planning officers. [4084]

Yvette Cooper: Sub-division of fields and woods into small plots for sale can lead to neglect and other unsightly consequences. In January the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued new Best Practice Guidance which, among other things, encourages local authorities to use notices under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to require landowners to remedy damage to rural amenity. Later this year, as part of our review of permitted development rights, we will consult on proposed improvements to the procedure for making article 4 directions. Article 4 directions can prevent permitted development where it would significantly threaten the amenity of the countryside.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he has issued to local planning authorities on the application of temporary stop notice powers, as provided under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to cases in which agricultural land has been divided into small plots for sale. [4085]

Yvette Cooper: ODPM Circular 02/2005 'Temporary Stop Notice' gives guidance on the use of temporary stop notices. It advises that a single temporary stop notice may apply to the whole of the site in

circumstances where a field is sub-divided into plots, irrespective of the fact that the field may not be in single ownership.

Barker Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will make a statement on implementation of the Barker report; [3749]

(2) what recommendations of the Barker review the Government have *(a)* already implemented and *(b)* intends to implement. [4316]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's initial response to Kate Barker's report was provided by my right hon. Friends the Chancellor and the Deputy Prime Minister alongside the Budget on 17 March 2004. We said then that we intend to bring forward a package of measures to address the recommendations of the Barker review by the end of 2005.

Kate Barker's proposals build on the approach adopted in the communities plan, launched by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister in February 2003. Her analysis have reinforced our case and strategy for more homes to address rising demand. In particular, the Government have accepted Kate Barker's central recommendation that there should be a step change in housing supply.

In advance of the wider package, and in response to one of Kate Barker's recommendations, the Government consulted last year on proposals to strengthen regional integration by bringing together regional planning bodies and regional housing boards and to provide the merged bodies with independent advice. In the pamphlet "Extending Home Ownership", launched by my right hon. Friends the Deputy Prime Minister and the Chancellor on 25 May, we confirmed that the merger of regional planning bodies and regional housing boards would go ahead. We also said that we would shortly announce further details about how independent evidence and analysis to support regional planning bodies would be strengthened.

In the 2004 spending review, we made a start on infrastructure investment in creating a community infrastructure fund, as recommended by Kate Barker. An extra £50 million in 2006–07 and £150 million in 2007–08 will be available to finance transport projects needed to sustain housing growth. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor also allocated funds which, with additional PFI funding and efficiency gains, aim to provide an extra 10,000 new homes for social let annually by 2007–08.

The Government plan to consult in summer 2005 on changes to planning policy guidance on housing (PPG3).

Business Rate

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the business rates set by each local authority area in England for 2004–05. [5531]

Mr. Woolas: The rate used to calculate business rate bills is set nationally. For 2004–05, the rate was 0.456. Bills for that year were calculated by multiplying this rate by the rateable value of the particular business hereditament and applying any reliefs.

Buy to Let

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect of buy-to-let on the cost and availability of private rented accommodation in London; and if he will make a statement. [4370]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have not carried out any studies into the impact of 'buy-to-let'. It is not easily assessed, although the mortgage lenders have produced some detailed statistics. 'Buy to let' mortgages as a proportion of all mortgages has risen nationally from 2 per cent. in 1999 to 9 per cent. in the second half of 2004. However, their impact on the London housing market has been generally declining (from almost 7 per cent. early 2001 when data was first collected), and in 2004–05 accounted for 3.9 per cent. of mortgages.

So far 'buy to let' has not led to a significant growth in the size of the private rented sector. However, inasmuch as it has led to more and better quality property coming onto the market it will have had a favourable impact on the cost and availability of private rented accommodation.

Children's Accommodation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of families with children and *(b)* the number of children in (i) temporary accommodation, (ii) non-decent accommodation and (iii) overcrowded accommodation. [2433]

Yvette Cooper: Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter, distinguishing those that include dependent children or a pregnant woman, and the numbers of children. On 31 December 2004 it is estimated that there were 72,800 such households in England, containing some 125,000 children or expected children.

Based on information collected through the English House Condition Survey, in 2001 there were an estimated 1,736,000 households containing some 3,123,000 children under 16 years of age living in non-decent homes. Since then there has been further progress towards the Government's decent homes target. Already the number of non-decent homes in the social sector has dropped by 1 million since 1997.

From information derived from the Survey of English Housing for 2003–04 it is estimated there were 360,000 households containing 845,000 dependent children living in conditions regarded as overcrowded in relation to the bedroom standard.

Contingency Plans

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which regions have conducted training exercises to assess contingency plans, as proposed by the Civil Resilience Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [2443]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All regions have conducted training exercises to test emergency plans and procedures.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much was raised from fines for non-payment of council tax in each year since 1997; [4215]

(2) how many fines were levied for non-payment of council tax in each year since 1997. [4240]

Mr. Woolas: There are no powers under which it is possible to impose a fine for the non-payment of council tax.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how transitional relief for the 2007 council tax revaluation in England will be funded. [4246]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's intention is that the transitional relief scheme will be self-financing.

Departmental Press Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many full-time equivalent staff have been employed by his Department's Press Office in each year since its creation; and if he will list the responsibilities of each current staff member. [4244]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) press officers employed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister were as follows:

As at April:	*Number*
2003	21.8
2004	23
2005	20

All current press officers provide media handling services for all ODPM Ministers and officials across the full range of the Office's responsibilities.

Derelict Land

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* area of sites designated as derelict land in 2004, broken down by region. [4435]

Yvette Cooper: The National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land provides estimates are tabled as follows:

Derelict land and buildings in England, 2004

	Number of sites reported by local authorities	*Estimated total area (hectares)*
North East	132	1,430
North West	1,193	5,690
Yorkshire and the Humber	495	2,960
East Midlands	392	2,040
West Midlands	464	1,840
East of England	182	2,310
London	76	290
South East	207	1,410
South West	325	1,900
England	3,466	19,870

Note:
The estimates of total areas include an allowance for incomplete reporting.

Education Finance (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent by each London borough on education per 1,000 population in each of the last five years. [2485]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Table A provides combined LEA and school based expenditure per pupil for each London borough from 1999–2000 to 2003–04. This does not take into account non school-based education e.g. adult/community education.

Table A: Combined LEA and school based expenditure[1,2] per pupil[3] (1999–2000 to 2003–04)[4,5]

Cash terms

		1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04[6]*
	England	2,800	2,980	3,290	*3,440*	*3,890*
301	Barking and Dagenham	3,110	3,260	3,750	*3,950*	*4,470*
302	Barnet	3,180	3,170	3,500	*3,670*	*4,170*
303	Bexley	2,640	2,790	3,110	*3,320*	*3,810*
304	Brent	3,410	3,530	3,840	*3,950*	*4,590*
305	Bromley	2,770	2,880	3,150	*3,430*	*3,640*
202	Camden	4,120	4,270	4,840	*5,730*	*6,040*
201	City of London	9,720	7,780	7,580	*9,090*	*9,790*
306	Croydon	2,940	3,140	3,560	*3,610*	*3,940*
307	Ealing	3,240	3,390	3,790	*3,880*	*4,550*
308	Enfield	3,090	3,280	3,650	*3,730*	*4,420*
203	Greenwich	3,740	3,890	4,320	*4,610*	*5,020*
204	Hackney	3,940	4,480	4,760	*4,860*	*5,650*
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	3,920	4,020	4,530	*4,460*	*5,290*
309	Haringey	3,660	3,910	4,440	*4,580*	*5,190*
310	Harrow	3,150	3,200	3,600	*3,800*	*4,090*
311	Havering	2,690	2,890	3,150	*3,260*	*3,730*
312	Hillingdon	2,950	3,070	3,300	*3,470*	*3,930*
313	Hounslow	3,160	3,320	3,690	*4,190*	*4,430*
206	Islington	3,800	4,240	4,770	*4,680*	*5,600*
207	Kensington and Chelsea	4,540	4,510	4,850	*5,010*	*5,650*

Table A: Combined LEA and school based expenditure[1,2] per pupil[3] (1999–2000 to 2003–04)[4,5]

Cash terms

		1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04[6]*
314	Kingston-upon-Thames	2,900	2,980	3,280	*3,420*	*3,990*
208	Lambeth	4,200	4,660	4,800	*4,650*	*5,170*
209	Lewisham	3,710	3,980	4,470	*4,230*	*5,520*
315	Merton	3,160	3,300	3,450	*4,120*	*4,320*
316	Newham	3,230	3,530	3,870	*4,070*	*4,530*
317	Redbridge	2,860	3,090	3,520	*3,580*	*3,960*
318	Richmond-upon-Thames	2,950	3,150	3,480	*4,100*	*4,440*
210	Southwark	3,880	3,880	4,800	*4,670*	*5,120*
319	Sutton	2,830	2,970	3,270	*3,430*	*3,810*
211	Tower Hamlets	3,990	4,450	4,990	*5,630*	*5,750*
320	Waltham Forest	3,210	3,630	3,870	*3,890*	*4,380*
212	Wandsworth	3,600	3,730	4,070	*3,550*	*4,570*
213	Westminster	4,200	4,430	4,930	*5,230*	*5,410*

[1] The combined LEA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LEA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LEA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LEA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). A sector breakdown for combined LEA and school based expenditure is not available in 2002–03 and consequently this table shows the total LEA recurrent expenditure (except youth and community) per pupil by LEA since 1994–95.

[2] 1999–2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DfES. 2002–03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown in italic. In 2002–03 the combined LEA and school based expenditure is calculated by Section 52 Outturn Table A line 51 net current expenditure (NCE) plus line 60 NCE (with adjustments to income to take account of School Standards Grant and Standards Fund scored here) plus lines 61 to 74 NCE. For 2001–02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as line 27 NCE after recharges for columns *(b)* to *(f)* and *(h)* plus line 15 from the remaining continuing education column (g, i and j). This is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table 3 for 1999–00 to 2001–02 and from the RO1 form previously.

[3] Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under 5s funded by the LEA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LEA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DfES Annual Schools Census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under 5 pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only include for 1999–2000 onwards. For 1995–96 onwards other LEA maintained pupils are included in the pupil count. This includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the Authority for whom the Authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the Authority drawn from the Form 8b submitted to the DfES. Also included as other LEA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained mainstream school drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[4] Spending in 1997–98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998–99. The 1999–2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance.

[5] In 2002–03 the combined LEA and school based unit cost for England showed a cash terms increase of 5 per cent. compared with a 10 per cent. increase in 2001–02. This is in part due to known misreporting of funding by some LEAs which had the estimated effect of reducing the 2002–03 England unit cost by around £50 per pupil (in cash terms).

[6] 2003–04 remains provisional at this time and is subject to change by LEAs.

Fire Service

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many malicious false alarms were *(a)* registered and *(b)* attended by each fire authority in each year since 1997. [2447]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

(a) The number of malicious false alarm calls processed by fire and rescue service control room staff is not available centrally.

(b) The number of malicious fire false alarm calls attended by each fire and rescue service in England in each year from 1997–98 to 2003–04 is shown in the following table.

Malicious fire false alarms attended

Fire and rescue authority	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*
Avon	1,522	1,415	1,485	1,339
Bedfordshire	491	371	439	383
Berkshire	957	868	1,047	876
Buckinghamshire	752	433	540	454
Cambridgeshire	909	825	612	489
Cheshire	765	592	582	519
Cleveland	3,356	2,585	2,514	1,995
Cornwall	292	319	300	303
Cumbria	617	618	555	562
Derbyshire	1,165	1,008	1,099	865
Devon	1,072	993	886	905
Dorset	625	702	653	480
Durham	1,727	1,412	1,258	1,053
East Sussex	517	492	510	519
Essex	1,825	1,608	1,684	1,778
Gloucestershire	441	385	256	191
Greater London	13,814	12,991	12,638	11,661
Greater Manchester	7,890	6,488	6,547	5,885
Hampshire	653	607	638	719
Hereford and Worcester	498	466	516	438
Hertfordshire	653	521	511	574
Humberside	1,537	1,058	941	988
Isle of Wight	87	118	91	76
Isles of Scilly	2	0	0	0
Kent	1,673	1,522	1,370	1,397
Lancashire	1,652	1,317	1,444	1,357
Leicestershire	1,121	914	882	687
Lincolnshire	453	361	360	317
Merseyside	4,282	3,248	3,632	2,726
Norfolk	316	242	310	305
North Yorkshire	429	389	346	340
Northamptonshire	481	417	438	494
Northumberland	360	300	247	251
Nottinghamshire	1,268	1,017	1,106	862

Malicious fire false alarms attended

Fire and rescue authority	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*
Oxfordshire[3]	602	589	580	490
Shropshire	308	485	296	255
Somerset	229	247	230	208
South Yorkshire	3,595	3,331	3,172	2,779
Staffordshire	875	863	874	840
Suffolk	444	346	374	366
Surrey	790	587	611	512
Tyne and Wear	2,971	2,490	1,694	1,257
Warwickshire	564	334	259	299
West Midlands	9,216	7,834	8,089	5,233
West Sussex	675	618	569	443
West Yorkshire	7,063	2,961	2,757	2,681
Wiltshire	445	421	544	558
England	81,979	67,708	66,486	57,709

Fire and rescue authority	*2001–02*	*2002–03*[1]	*2003–04*[2]
Avon	1,444	1,529	1,433
Bedfordshire	453	327	362
Berkshire	962	712	625
Buckinghamshire	468	380	356
Cambridgeshire	457	381	360
Cheshire	583	598	578
Cleveland	1,734	1,381	480
Cornwall	241	213	1–71
Cumbria	534	613	286
Derbyshire	767	710	629
Devon	111	720	613
Dorset	468	414	328
Durham	1,089	952	599
East Sussex	564	477	511
Essex	1,991	2,052	1,687
Gloucestershire	151	150	145
Greater London	12,347	10,448	9,858
Greater Manchester	6,262	5,745	5,172
Hampshire	812	794	796
Hereford and Worcester	500	349	350
Hertfordshire	736	607	372
Humberside	973	865	695
Isle of Wight	91	78	59
Isles of Scilly	3	2	0
Kent	1,499	1,312	1,099
Lancashire	1,523	1,390	1,377
Leicestershire	750	641	564
Lincolnshire	400	555	535
Merseyside	2,310	2,305	2,365
Norfolk	304	301	263
North Yorkshire	357	346	321
Northamptonshire	378	423	371
Northumberland	261	245	201
Nottinghamshire	880	799	715
Oxfordshire[3]	412	288	171
Shropshire	320	290	199
Somerset	237	249	237
South Yorkshire	2,873	2,610	2,018
Staffordshire	870	845	629
Suffolk	472	390	342
Surrey	484	411	425
Tyne and Wear	1,261	1,039	987
Warwickshire	196	370	179
West Midlands	5,176	4,385	4,068
West Sussex	388	404	386
West Yorkshire	2,896	2,536	2,321
Wiltshire	199	165	165
England	58,853	52,796	46,403

[1] Data include estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of national industrial action in 2002–03.
[2] Provisional 2004 data.
[3] Data for Oxfordshire for 2002–03 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years due to revised procedures in responding to an alarm.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service FDR3 returns to ODPM

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fires were attended by the Fire and Rescue Service where there was *(a)* no fire alarm and *(b)* a non-functioning fire alarm in each year since 1997. [2448]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of dwelling fires attended by the Fire and Rescue service in England where there was no smoke alarm or a non functioning smoke alarm is as follows:

	(a) No smoke alarm	*(b) Smoke alarm did not operate*
1997–98	41,218	3,819
1998–99	37,931	4,754
1999–00	37,633	5,259
2000–01	33,788	5,655
2001–02	32,824	5,976
2002–03[1]	29,971	5,350
2003–04[2]	27,995	5,535

[1] Includes estimates for 15 strike days.
[2] Provisional figures.
Note:
Figures derived from a grossed up 20 per cent. sample of fires attended.
Source:
Fire and Rescue service FDR1 returns to ODPM

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 36W, on vehicle fires, if he will break down figures for the number of malicious vehicle fires by each year since 1997. [4522]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested for each year since 1997 is contained in the following table.

Deliberate road vehicle primary fires, by fire and rescue service area, 1997–2003

FRS Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Avon	887	1,158	1,669	2,057	2,540	2,233	1,868
Bedfordshire	512	533	727	964	865	987	745
Berkshire	509	561	720	865	944	743	638
Buckinghamshire	562	653	808	890	1,034	885	893
Cambridgeshire	504	537	827	880	813	1,054	978
Cheshire	432	567	619	667	947	1,010	939
Cleveland	571	755	1,125	1,207	1,484	1,737	1,421
Cornwall	178	162	169	237	310	360	364
Cumbria	301	344	372	430	380	418	412
Derbyshire	507	567	805	802	942	1,054	908
Devon	442	462	499	556	614	635	632
Dorset	285	317	401	493	587	536	516

Deliberate road vehicle primary fires, by fire and rescue service area, 1997–2003

FRS Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Durham	508	657	732	749	751	843	807
East Sussex	455	520	716	882	919	862	708
Essex	649	724	961	1,559	1,741	1,647	1,556
Gloucestershire	265	256	290	353	464	547	554
Greater London	2,972	3,378	4,945	6,118	6,476	5,580	4,948
Greater Manchester	4,042	4,130	5,166	5,717	7,017	6,050	5,216
Hampshire	526	710	802	839	822	858	827
Hereford and Worcester	299	311	415	465	451	530	431
Hertfordshire	431	466	677	845	886	922	840
Humberside	722	902	1,186	1,092	1,379	1,753	2,098
Isle of Wight	22	10	21	19	49	45	36
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	1,086	1,397	1,864	2,373	2,140	1,962	1,826
Lancashire	821	918	1,229	1,169	1,366	1,440	1,290
Leicestershire	752	819	1,075	1,063	1,168	1,214	941
Lincolnshire	263	364	373	421	474	586	590
Merseyside	1,569	1,838	2,568	3,124	3,476	3,523	3,486
Norfolk	411	436	489	696	738	758	720
North Yorkshire	255	252	384	450	553	594	528
Northamptonshire	550	632	763	941	955	1,075	1,067
Northumberland	271	236	327	309	373	362	395
Nottinghamshire	818	1,062	1,562	1,772	2,671	3,137	2,535
Oxfordshire	373	478	544	686	566	581	564
Shropshire	309	309	315	409	515	418	351
Somerset	226	248	374	411	513	625	502
South Yorkshire	1,562	1,901	2,254	2,125	2,383	3,166	3,137
Staffordshire	653	809	955	968	1,137	1,121	1,128
Suffolk	164	148	222	326	402	391	365
Surrey	329	381	508	636	659	721	703
Tyne and Wear	1,581	1,738	2,068	1,953	2,259	2,316	2,085
Warwickshire	343	397	461	511	569	685	622
West Midlands	3,044	3,110	4,154	4,423	4,834	4,775	4,330
West Sussex	238	291	389	435	538	487	501
West Yorkshire	2,875	3,491	4,169	4,817	6,170	6,684	5,708
Wiltshire	89	159	192	275	305	243	251

Note:
Data includes estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of national industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to ODPM.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if the Government will introduce legislation to provide additional protection from harassment and attack to firefighters responding to emergency calls. [3984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 makes it an offence to obstruct or interfere with an employee of a Fire and Rescue Authority. In addition there is a hierarchy of offences against the person where injury results. This goes from grievous bodily harm through actual bodily harm to common law offences of assault and battery, depending on the injuries inflicted. It is important that such incidents are reported to the police. During the passage of the Act the question of further provision was considered and we were not persuaded that it would assist.

Green Belt

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many hectares of designated green belt land there were in each local authority area, in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [4284]

Yvette Cooper: Data on the extent of designated green belt in each local authority area in England in 1997 and 2003 were published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 16 September 2004. Copies of the publication are available in the Library of the House. The publication is also available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at

http//www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_031125.hcsp

The area of green belt has increased by 19,300 hectares in the period 1997 to 2003.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment the Government have made of the number of park and ride sites proposed for development on green belt land since the revision of planning policy guidance 13 in 2001. [4355]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

High Hedges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what estimate the Government have made of the cost to local authorities of implementing the new regulations on high hedges; and if he will make a statement; [4290]

(2) what the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* ongoing costs are to local authorities of the implementation and enforcement of the high hedges provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. [4308]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published the 'Regulatory Impact Assessment: High Hedges—Implementing Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003' on 23 March 2005. It contains estimates of the costs to local authorities of implementing and enforcing the new legislation on high hedges, including set-up and ongoing costs.

Copies of the Regulatory Impact Assessment are available in the House Library.

Home Condition Reports

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in ensuring an adequate supply of trained inspectors to meet the requirement of the Housing Act 2004 for home condition reports. [3705]

Yvette Cooper: National Occupational Standards for home inspectors have been approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. An awarding body has been approved for the new qualification in home inspection, and four assessment centres have been approved so far to assess courses offered by educational institutions and other organisations. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is assisting recruitment of home inspectors with awareness initiatives aimed at publicising this new career opportunity. A highly successful national conference and trade fair held on 25 November 2004 was attended by between 800 and 1,000 potential home inspectors. Four regional conferences have been well attended, and further regional events are planned. We expect to see the number of trained inspectors rise quickly in the second half of 2005 and during 2006, ready for introducing home information packs in early 2007 and we will work with the industry to this end.

Homebuy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum average earnings are for eligibility for social homebuy. [2924]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals for social homebuy are set out in the consultation document 'HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own' (a copy of which is available from the Library of the House). Under our proposals, participating social tenants would buy as large a share of their home as they can afford, and would have to be able to afford at least 50 per cent. of the home's discounted value. There would be rigorous and transparent affordability checks to ensure that they can afford to sustain the ongoing obligations the home ownership brings. We have published an assessment of the income that would be required to purchase a 50 per cent. share of a typical starter home under social homebuy in 'HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own: Supporting Document' (a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, or at the following address on the internet:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_housing/documents/page/odpm_house_038088.hcsp)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the proportion of housing associations expected to offer social homebuy to their social tenants. [4271]

Yvette Cooper: Social homebuy will be voluntary, with housing associations and local authorities able to choose whether or not to offer the opportunity to their tenants. We are currently consulting on the details of our proposals for social homebuy, as set out in the consultation document 'HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own' (a copy of which is available from the Library of the House). It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate of the proportion of housing associations expected to offer social homebuy at the present time.

As part of the consultation document a number of housing associations have approached us, expressing interest in piloting the scheme. Discussions on these pilots are currently ongoing.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the social homebuy scheme will allow social tenants to purchase 100 per cent. of their equity; and if he will make a statement. [4272]

Yvette Cooper: Our proposals for social homebuy are set out in the consultation document 'HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own' (a copy of which is available from the Library of the House). Under them, in most cases, buyers will have the option to purchase further equity shares in 10 per cent. tranches to 100 per cent. ownership.

In some exceptional cases, for example in particularly high-value areas or small rural settlements where replacing affordable housing would be difficult, buyers may be restricted to purchasing less than 100 per cent. of the property. Buyers would be informed of this restriction at the initial point of purchase.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the sites designated for social homebuy. [2925]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals for social homebuy are set out in the consultation document 'HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own' (a copy of which is available from the Library of the House). The scheme will be voluntary, with housing associations and local authorities able to choose whether to offer the opportunity to their tenants. The consultation has not yet concluded and therefore it is not possible at the present time to identify which housing associations and local authorities will do so.

Housing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* children living in overcrowded housing. [4366]

Yvette Cooper: Using data from the Survey of English Housing it is estimated that in 2003–04 in England there were *(a)* 473,000 households, and *(b)* 767,000 children under 16 living in households which do not pass the "bedroom standard". This represented 2 per cent. of all households and 8 per cent. of all children.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in overcrowded accommodation, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* property tenure; and what the figures were in 1991. [4368]

Yvette Cooper: The most recent estimates of the number of households in overcrowded accommodation which fails the "bedroom standard", broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* property tenure, are shown in the following tables, alongside equivalent figures for 1991. These figures suggest a significant overall decline in overcrowding between 1991 and 2003–04 of 43 per cent.

Households in England in overcrowded accommodation, by region: 1991 and 2003–04

Thousand

Standard Statistical Region	*1991*	*2003–04*
North	37	22
Yorkshire and the Humber	77	31
North West	120	44
East Midlands	53	24
West Midlands	92	51
East Anglia	23	12
London	208	187
South East	154	76
South West	70	26
All regions	834	473

Sources:

1991 DOE Labour Force Survey Housing Trailer

2003–04 ODPM Survey of English Housing

Households in England in overcrowded accommodation, by tenure: 1991 and 2003–04

Thousand

Tenure	*1991*	*2003–04*
Owner occupiers	381	198
Social renters	312	180
Private renters	142	95
All tenures	834	473

Sources:

1991 DOE Labour Force Survey Housing Trailer

2003–04 ODPM Survey of English Housing

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he *(a)* has published and *(b)* plans to publish to assist local authorities in the discharge of their new licensing functions under the provisions of the Housing Act 2004. [3706]

Yvette Cooper: Advice to local authorities and landlords is available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website www.odpm.gov.uk and a number of statutory instruments will be laid before Parliament shortly which will help define the framework within which licensing will operate.

Discussions are also under way with local government, landlords and other stakeholder organisations on the training required by key staff and on how best to disseminate information about the new arrangements and examples of good practice.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many houses his Department has planned should be built in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* London borough of Havering. [2222]

Yvette Cooper: Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) makes provision for 5,240 new homes in Essex per annum. The final Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England will be published by the First Secretary of State around the end of 2006.

In London, housing targets are set by the Mayor of London and the London boroughs. The Mayor's London Plan states that housing provision up to 2006 will be monitored against a minimum target of 23,000 additional homes per year. The target for Havering for the period 1997–2016 is 6,900 additional homes (350 per year.)

Land Stabilisation Programme

Mr. Cox: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the future funding of the Land Stabilisation Programme administered by English Partnerships; and what assessment he has made of the implications of this funding for the programme's ongoing projects, with particular reference to those in Horrabridge and Tavistock, West Devon. [4177]

Yvette Cooper: The Land Stabilisation Programme is currently under review and an announcement regarding its future is expected in autumn 2005.

The English Partnerships' (EP) Business Plan has been set for the four years 2005–06 to 2008–09 and within that an annual allocation has been made for Land Stabilisation Programme funding to continue for projects that have an existing approval or where an approval is currently in the process of being completed. Where a project comes to EP in the future with a sufficiently high risk rating and no other options are available to tackle the problem, a re-evaluation exercise will have to be undertaken to determine how such a project could be accommodated into LSP.

A report on the investigations into Horrabridge is due to be published in June which will help inform the ongoing discussions with West Devon borough council and the owner.

Drake Gardens has a higher level of risk placed upon it by the geo-technical consultants acting for the council and West Devon Homes (RSL) with 12 properties are highlighted as being at risk of collapse. West Devon borough council monitoring does not show any progressive movement in any of the houses. The council has applied for LSP funding assessed at £53,000 to complete the site investigations undertaken and paid for so far by the council, two private owners and West Devon Homes. A redevelopment proposal for the 12 properties has been proposed by the council that it is hoped will cover the ground remediation costs and English Partnerships are in discussion with the council regarding this proposal.

Leisure Facilities (Brent)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment the Audit Commission has made of leisure facilities in Brent. [2509]

Mr. Woolas: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission. I will ask the Chief Executive to write to the hon. Member and to ensure the answer is made available in the Library the House.

Letter from Steve Bundred to Sarah Teather, dated 8 June 2005:

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has referred your parliamentary question on leisure services in Brent to me for reply.

The Audit Commission has carried out two inspections in Brent which include leisure facilities. The first, in April 2002, was an inspection of sport and leisure services, which were judged to be poor with poor prospects for improvement. The second, a whole service inspection on culture services was carried out in July 2004. The service inspected consisted of the parks service and sports service which are located within the environment directorate and the library service, heritage service, out of school support service and cultural services which are located within the directorate for education, arts and libraries. Culture services were judged to be good with promising prospects for improvement.

I am enclosing some more details of the two inspections. It was rather difficult from the PQ wording to work out what sort of information you were looking for, so apologies if this does not fit the bill. If you need further, or just different, information, please do contact me again and we will do all we can to help.

LB Brent—AC activity with respect to leisure facilities

We have carried out two inspections at Brent which include leisure facilities. The second inspection by its very nature (a whole service inspection of culture services—July 2004) did not focus solely on leisure facilities.

April 2002—An inspection of sport and leisure was undertaken at Brent. The service was judged to be poor with poor prospects for improvement.

The service was judged to be poor because:

The council at the time did not have clear aims and the service lacked focus and direction

Some aspects of service delivery to the customer were unacceptable in terms of quality and user focus

Service and performance data was incomplete and too unreliable to make comparisons.

The service was judged to have poor prospects for improvement because:

The service at the time lacked political, financial and managerial commitment and leadership

Provision of the service was fragmented

The council's own planning and performance management was weak

There was no on-going consultation about the service with local community and relationships with local stakeholders are poor

July 2004—A culture whole service inspection was carried out in July 2004 at Brent. The service inspected consisted of the parks service and sports service which are located within the environment directorate and the library service, heritage service, out of school support service and cultural services which are located within the directorate for education, arts and libraries. Culture services were judged to be good with promising prospects for improvement.

Key findings from the inspection include:

Clear links can be demonstrated between the ambition for cultural services' and the ambition for the local area. This has been developed through extensive consultation with local stakeholders;

projects to improve physical access have now been addressed in light of DDA legislation and the website has been developed as an effective tool to encourage participation;

all the cultural services can demonstrate outcomes against local priorities and are applying programmes targeted at the needs of local people in this diverse community;

though not all service areas are delivering to a consistent standard the progress made in sport over the past eighteen months is significant and the quality of service in parks and libraries is strong; and

A sports strategy entitled, 'A strategy for Sport and Physical activity' has been developed and approved by the Executive.

However:

satisfaction ratings in the sports service as measured by MORI are low at 38 per cent;

while improvements are noted in the sports service, these now need to be sustained in the long term and the pace of improvement maintained; and

The outcomes and impacts of some local projects are not being measured and it is therefore difficult for the council to demonstrate the added value of such projects.

Prospects for improvement are promising because:

clear leadership from councillors and senior mangers is evident and the two directorates which share responsibility for the provision of these services work and communicate effectively together;

capacity has been increased and performance management systems are in place to support further improvement;

the directorates have mainstreamed equality and diversity issues into service planning and partnerships have been used to increase capacity and attract resources; and

The strategic planning framework effectively links cultural priorities with relevant priorities in corporate plans and other directorate plans and these have benefited from external stakeholder engagement. However it is early days in the embedding of this framework and the council needs to keep focussed on ensuring appropriate mechanisms are in place for monitoring and reviewing existing and future plans.

However:

With some exceptions, the quality of the building stock is deteriorating. While this is partly related to the age of facilities it does also demonstrate corporate weaknesses in asset management in recent years;

Improving the infrastructure for cultural services will require significant levels of investment. The challenge of identifying these levels and then putting in a robust framework to attract them has not yet been tackled; and

Whilst we found some service operational plans to be of a high standard, some need to be more rigorous in their specification of targets, action, deadlines and the assignment of tasks to staff.

Local Government

David Howarth: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities, including the time of officers, of hosting, preparing for and following up inspections and reviews by bodies for which his Department is responsible in the 2004–05 financial year; what evaluation procedures the Government have to assess the effectiveness of those bodies in bringing about improvement in local government services; and what steps are taken to ensure that the remits of those organisations do not *(a)* overlap and *(b)* conflict. [5367]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is responsible for sponsorship of the Audit Commission, which undertakes inspection of local authority services and inspection by its Housing Inspectorate of registered social landlords. There are no agreed or reliable figures to calculate the indirect costs of inspection to local government (i.e. staff time).

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 406W, how many representations he has received from local councils advocating *(a)* local government restructuring and *(b)* unitary local government subsequent to the result of the north east regional referendum. [4516]

Mr. Woolas: Since November last year we have received a number of representations from local government covering a range of views from, on the one hand, advocating the establishment of unitary authorities, to others favouring the status quo.

David Howarth: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will list the organisations for which his Department is responsible which *(a)* inspect, *(b)* review, *(c)* train and *(d)* support local authorities; how much financial support each received from central government funds in the 2004–05 financial year; how much each raised in fees and charges from local authorities in that year; how many staff each employed (i) directly and (ii) as consultants in each year; and what proportion of those staff normally work on-site in local authorities; [5532]

(2) if he will list the organisations financially supported by his Department in the 2004–05 financial year which *(a)* inspect, *(b)* review, *(c)* train, *(d)* support and *(e)* represent local authorities; and how much financial support each received from his Department in that year. [5533]

Mr. Woolas: A number of bodies which provide services for local authorities are specified by the Secretary of State to receive funding from the Revenue Support Grant. Details of these bodies and their RSG funding for 2004–05 are tabled as follows:

	RSG funding
Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government	21,097,000
Employers' Organisation for Local Government	11,763,000
The Fire Services Examination Board	488,000
The National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales	1,311,000
The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education	694,000
The Local Government International Bureau	1,666,000
The Local Authorities Co-ordinating body on Food and Trading Standards	1,755,000
Public Private Partnerships Programme	2,947,000
National Youth Agency	1,461,000
The Commission for Local Administration in England	11,058,000

In addition, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is responsible for the sponsorship of the Audit Commission, which has a statutory responsibility to regulate the audit of local government and NHS bodies in England, to carry out inspections of best value authorities and to assess the performance of local authorities. These responsibilities extended to Wales for the year ended 31 March 2005.

In respect of its local Government activities, the Commission received the following financial support from central Government in 2004–05:

	£ million
ODPM	18.1
Welsh Assembly Government	1.6
Other	0.4
Total	20.1

ODPM is also responsible for and financially supports other organisations, which are occasionally involved in supporting and representing local authorities' interests. We do not have reliable information on whether these organisations engaged in local authority interests for the 2004–05 period. To gather such information would be at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many new homes are forecast to be built in Hertfordshire in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008, *(e)* 2009, *(f)* 2010 and *(g)* 2011; and if he will make a statement. [3218]

Yvette Cooper: The Hertfordshire structure plan sets an annual average of 3,250 new homes in the period to 2011. The average rate achieved during the period 2001 to 2004 was 3,125. The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the east of England is currently under review and will set out future plans for new homes in Hertfordshire. It is expected that the RSS will be published around the end of 2006.

Local Government Standards Board

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many complaints to the Local Government Standards Board against a councillor in each of the last three years were made *(a)* by a member of the public, *(b)* by another councillor, *(c)* by a councillor from the same political party, *(d)* by a councillor from another political party, *(e)* by an officer of a council, *(f)* by the chief executive of the council and *(g)* by the monitoring officer of the council, where the monitoring officer is not the chief executive; how many were (i) upheld, (ii) dismissed and (iii) resulted in no penalty being imposed in each case; and if he will make a statement. [3895]

Mr. Woolas: The information which can be provided is tabled as follows:

	Number of allegations received		
	2002–03	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Members of the public			
Total	1,191	1,680	2,359
Not referred for investigation	862	1,219	1,955
Referred for investigation	329	461	404
Councillors			
Total	1,277	1,316	1,266
Not referred for investigation	703	841	875
Referred for investigation	574	475	391
Monitoring officers			
Total	276	45	27
Not referred for investigation	58	9	5
Referred for investigation	218	36	22
Other local authority officers			
Total	123	84	146
Not referred for investigation	40	54	82
Referred for investigation	83	30	64

The Standards Board does not record information regarding the political affiliation of councillors who have submitted allegations. Its records do not distinguish between allegations submitted by chief executives and other local authority officers or whether there are cases where monitoring officers are also chief executives.

Information is not available on the detailed outcome of cases in respect of each particular category of complainant.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many hours of Standards Board officers' time were spent on the case of Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, broken down by grade of officer; and if he will make a statement. [3900]

Mr. Woolas: The Standards Board does not record the amount of time spent by staff on any particular investigation.

Mobile Advertising

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to ban mobile advertising hoardings in the countryside. [3060]

Yvette Cooper: Outdoor advertisements, such as these, are controlled by local planning authorities under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 and require the express consent of the local planning authority before they can be displayed lawfully.

It is for the relevant local planning authority to determine whether a particular advertisement should be permitted and the most appropriate course of action to take when an advertisement is displayed in contravention of the regulations.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister intends to write to local authorities shortly, reminding them of their powers to act in these cases.

Mobile Phone Masts

Anne Milton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Government expect to conclude their review of planning regulations for mobile phone masts. [3370]

Yvette Cooper: In September last year the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister commissioned the University of Reading and Arup to undertake an independent study to assess the impact that the code of best practice on mobile phone network development has had since its introduction. The report will be published in due course. On 4 April I announced the Government will be commissioning further research to identify the future direction of mobile phone technology and the future need for mast developments.

National Spatial Address Infrastructure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he will lead the Government agency with responsibility for the National Spatial Address Infrastructure. [4267]

Mr. Woolas: The proposed specification and plans to deliver the National Spatial Address Infrastructure are set out in the outline prospectus published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 26 May 2005.

The proposals state that the new infrastructure will be provided by Ordnance Survey on behalf of the user community under direction of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and there will be a new governance structure that will ensure that interests of stakeholders are protected.

The main partners, Ordnance Survey and the Local Government Information House (LGIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) have agreed heads of terms for the development process.

Ordnance Survey, the National Mapping Agency, is a trading fund that reports to Parliament through Ministers in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Non-departmental Bodies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list each non-departmental public body, executive agency, quango or taskforce which *(a)* has regional offices or *(b)* is based around a Government office region; and what the date of establishment was of each. [4295]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he will publish a regulatory impact assessment for his plans to revoke the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004. [4306]

Mr. Woolas: A final decision to revoke the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004 will require the preparation of a regulatory impact assessment which will be published.

Planning Appeals/Policy Guidance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes the Government have made to planning guidance relating to park-and-ride sites since May 1997. [4248]

Yvette Cooper: Since May 1997, the Government have issued planning policy guidance note (PPG) 13 Transport (March 2001), which covers park-and-ride schemes at paragraphs 59 to 63, and also at annex E provides an amendment to PPG2 Green Belts, adding new paragraphs 3.17–3.20.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons planning appeal decisions by the planning inspectorate are not accessible to the public via their website; and if he will make a statement. [4309]

Yvette Cooper: The planning inspectorate is in the process of rolling out an online appeals service the Planning Casework Service (PCS).

The PCS is available via the Planning Portal (www.planningportal.gov.uk). It enables people to complete, submit, view, track progress, comment on, and search for appeals online.

The PCS is being rolled out in stages. It is currently live for access restriction appeals and enforcement appeals and will go live for new planning appeals later this year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes the Government have made to planning guidance on *(a)* the density of residential development, *(b)* infill development and *(c)* suburban development, since May 1997. [4242]

Yvette Cooper: 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 3: Housing' was published by the then Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) in 2000. It introduced a new approach to planning for housing, including guidelines for the density of residential development.

Other relevant changes to planning policy include 'Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development' and 'Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres', both published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005, and 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport' published by DETR in 2001.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what plans the Government have to revise Planning Policy Guidance 3; [4247]

(2) what plans he has to revise planning guidance relating *(a)* to the green belt, *(b)* residential housing development and *(c)* infill development; and if he will make a statement; [4315]

(3) what plans the Government have to amend planning guidance on infill development; and if he will make a statement. [4322]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Housing and Planning on 17 June 2004, *Official Report* column 45WS, which set out the Government's plans for revising planning policy guidance.

Since this written statement was made, the Government have published Planning Policy Guidance Note 3: Housing consultation paper entitled 'Planning for Mixed Communities' and have announced the intention that they will consult this summer on an updated approach to planning for the supply of land for housing.

Population Distribution

Mr. Walker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what measures he is taking to encourage population growth away from the east and south-east of England; and if he will make a statement. [3215]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are committed to helping those who wish to live and work in the region where they were born and brought up to do so. That is why it is looking at how it can secure sustainable growth and affordable housing in the wider south-east. Constraining growth in the more prosperous regions would not necessarily benefit other regions. Investment displaced from the wider south-east might well go abroad, or simply not happen.

Nevertheless the Government do have a range of initiatives in place to encourage growth in other regions. For example, work is under way to implement the proposals that emerged from the Lyons Review of Public Sector Relocation, which reviewed the scope for relocating public sector jobs out of London and the south-east. Departments have confirmed 20,000 jobs for dispersal from London and the south, which should be completed by 2010.

The Government have a PSA target to improve the economic performance of all the English regions by 2008 and over the long-term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, demonstrating progress by 2006. Furthermore, the Government are actively supporting the Regional Development Agencies and their partners in the north, Midlands and south-west in developing inter-regional growth strategies to achieve economic growth in their regions. For example, the Northern Way Growth Strategy which was published in September 2004.

Regional Bodies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the address is of the offices of each *(a)* regional chamber, *(b)* regional housing board and *(c)* regional observatory. [4512]

Yvette Cooper: The information is as follows.

(a) Regional chambers

East of England Regional Assembly
Flempton House
Flempton
Bury St. Edmunds
IP28 6EG

East Midlands Regional Assembly
Belvoir Suite
Council Offices
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
LE13 OVL

North East Assembly
The Guildhall
Quayside
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3AF

North West Regional Assembly
Wigan Investment Centre
Waterside Drive
Wigan
WN3 5BA

South East Regional Assembly
Berkeley House
Cross Lanes
Guildford
GU1 1UN

South West Regional Assembly
Dennett House
11 Middle Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1SH

West Midlands Regional Assembly
Regional Partnership Centre
3rd Floor, Albert House
Quay Place
92–93 Edward Street
Birmingham
B1 2RA

Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
18 King Street
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF1 2SQ

(b) Regional housing boards

East of England Regional Housing Board
Eastbrook
Shaftsbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 2DF

East Midlands Regional Housing Board
The Belgrave Centre
Stanley Place
Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GG

London Regional Housing Board
Riverwalk House
157–161 Millbank
London
SW1P 4RR

North East Regional Housing Board
Citygate
Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4WH

North West Regional Housing Board
City Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester
M1 4BE

South East Regional Housing Board
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4GA

South West Regional Housing Board
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH

West Midlands Regional Housing Board
5 St. Philips Place
Colmore Place
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Yorks and the Humber Regional Housing Board
City House
New Station Street
Leeds
LS1 4US

(c) Regional observatory

East of England Observatory
The Business Centre
Station Road
Histon
Cambridge
CB4 9LQ

Intelligence East Midlands
Regeneration East Midlands
Unit 8, Provident Works
Newdigate Street
Nottingham
NG7 4FD

Greater London Observatory
DMAG
5th Floor
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

North East Regional Information Partnership (NERIP)
Stella House
Goldcrest Way
Newburn Riverside
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE15 8NY

North West Regional Intelligence Unit
Renaissance House
PO Box 37
Centre Park
Warrington
Cheshire
WA1 1XB

South East England Intelligence Network
(SEE-iN)
Berkeley House
Cross Lanes
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 1VA

South West Observatory
East Reach House
East Reach,
Taunton
TA1 SEN

West Midlands Regional Observatory
Level L1, Millennium Point
Curzon Street
Birmingham
B4 7XG

Yorkshire Future
Victoria House
2 Victoria Place
Leeds
LS11 SAE

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the powers and responsibilities of the regional housing boards. [4277]

Yvette Cooper: Regional Housing Boards meet at the request of Ministers. They are not statutory bodies and therefore have no powers. Each one has been given responsibility for producing its region's Housing Strategy and for making recommendations to Ministers on how resources for housing capital investment should be targeted.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the timetable for the Government's plans to merge the regional housing boards with regional planning bodies. [4280]

Yvette Cooper: We are considering a number of points of detail and will be making an announcement soon.

Right to Buy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the right to buy for *(a)* housing association and *(b)* council house tenants. [3748]

Yvette Cooper: The right to buy is available to secure tenants of local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). In addition, assured tenants of RSLs who have transferred with their homes from local authorities have a preserved right to buy. Around 2.9 million tenants have the right to buy or preserved right to buy.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many housing association tenants are eligible for *(a)* the right to buy, *(b)* the preserved right to buy, *(c)* the right to acquire and *(d)* voluntary purchase grants. [4274]

Yvette Cooper: Approximately 65,000 housing association tenants have the Right to Buy.

Another 930,000 housing association tenants who have transferred with their homes from local authorities have a Preserved Right to Buy.

A further 146,000 housing association tenants may qualify for the Right to Acquire scheme introduced by the Housing Act 1996 because their homes have been built with public funds since April 1997. Some of the tenants who have transferred from local authorities may also qualify for the Right to Acquire scheme.

It is not possible to say how many tenants are eligible for Voluntary Purchase Grants. This scheme is offered at the discretion of housing associations, which bid to the Housing Corporation for funds to cover the discount offered to the tenant. Eligibility therefore depends on whether housing associations choose to participate in the scheme, which properties are included, and the availability of funding.

Social Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish figures for the number of households in *(a)* council housing and *(b)* housing associations in England in each year since 1997. [4273]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of local authority and housing association (registered social landlord) dwellings at 31 March each year since 1997 are tabled as follows:

Units: thousands of dwellings

	Local authority	*Registered social landlord*
1997	3,401	985
1998	3,309	1,040
1999	3,178	1,146
2000	3,012	1,273
2001	2,812	1,424
2002	2,706	1,467
2003	2,457	1,621
2004	2,335	1,665

Source:
Local Authority HSSA returns to ODPM; Housing Association RSR returns to Housing Corporation

Solent Gateway

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will state how much *(a)* greenfield and *(b)* green belt land there is in the Solent Gateway area. [4173]

Yvette Cooper: The Government do not collect statistics on the proportions of greenfield land, and there is no land designated as green belt in the Southampton, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth and Havant areas.

Spatial Strategy (Water)

Anne Main: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what mechanisms the panel established to conduct the examination in public into the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy will use *(a)* to calculate the amount of water required for each new dwelling, *(b)* to establish the source for the water of each dwelling, *(c)* to establish the sustainability of the source of water for each new dwelling and *(d)* to establish the impact on local rivers, the environment and the biodiversity of the area. [4078]

Yvette Cooper: The Environment Agency is responsible for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales, and will be presenting evidence to the forthcoming examination in public of the East of England plan.

The water companies' water resource plans, which must be submitted for periodic scrutiny and review by the Environment Agency, provide the mechanisms for calculating the amount of water required for each new dwelling and the source, or sources, likely to be available. The current plans were rolled forward in 2004, and the Environment Agency published its advice to Ministers in July 2004. The next full review is due in 2009, but plans will be monitored by the agency, and revised and updated by the water companies, on an annual basis.

The water companies have generally allowed for the level of growth currently planned to 2016; hence the panel's role will be to test whether the water companies' plans have allowed for the additional development proposed in the East of England plan. Where they have not, the panel will wish to be satisfied that, on the evidence presented by the water companies, the Environment Agency and others, it is reasonable to conclude that any forecast increase in demand can be met when it arises.

The agency has indicated that it intends to make the results of its most recent water resource modelling available to the examination. As part of the testing process, the panel will consider the sustainability of proposals for meeting additional demand and possible environmental impact. From 2008 onwards, this will

include considering the links with the river basin plans which the Environment Agency will be producing to implement the Water Framework Directive.

Special Advisers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the names of the special advisers currently employed in his Department. [4287]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Joan Hammell, Mick Halloran and Alan Schofield are currently employed as special advisers to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister; Tim Williams is currently employed as special adviser to my right hon. Friend the Minister of Communities and Local Government.

Telephone Boxes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what powers his Department has given to local authorities to remove derelict telephone boxes. [2494]

Mr. Woolas: Outside designated areas, licensed electronic communications code system operators are authorised under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO) (as amended by SI 2115/2003) to install public call boxes. Under permitted development rights telecommunications apparatus should be removed as soon as reasonably practicable after it is no longer required for telecommunications purposes. If this is not carried out the local planning authority may serve a breach of condition notice requiring the removal of the equipment.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the membership is of the working party established to develop guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland; how many times it has met; and where each meeting was held. [4053]

Mr. Woodward: Following the order made by the Court of Appeal on 26 November 2004, a small departmental working group was subsequently established to consider how best we might meet the requirements of the order. The working group comprises the Department's director of family and elderly care, representatives from family policy unit and departmental solicitor's office, chief medical officer, chief nursing officer, a senior medical officer and the head of midwifery at the Royal jubilee maternity service.

A sub group with the specific remit of developing guidance on abortion has not yet been established.

Academically Gifted Children

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* guidance is issued and *(b)* research has been undertaken by his Department in relation to educating academically gifted children (i) exclusively with other academically gifted children and (ii) with non-academically gifted children. [3492]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of Education has not issued specific guidance to schools or undertaken research in relation to the education of academically gifted children.

Ards and Down Area Plan

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the status of the Draft Ards and Down Area Plan is following the Judicial Review; and if he will make a statement. [4105]

Angela E. Smith: The status of the Draft Ards and Down Area Plan have not altered following the application for a Judicial Review. It remains a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Following consideration of the written judgment of the High Court, which clarified a number of important issues, the Department of the Environment has withdrawn the precautionary appeal and has written to the Planning Appeals Commission setting out a framework within which it is anticipated that the public inquiry can proceed.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the public inquiry into the Draft Ards and Down Area Plan. [5738]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of the Environment has recently written to the Planning Appeals Commission setting out a framework within which it is anticipated that the public inquiry can proceed. We understand that the Planning Appeals Commission is to hold a meeting on 28 June 2005 to consider the timetable for the resumption of the inquiry.

Belfast Regeneration Office

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by the Belfast Regeneration Office in each year since its formation. [4393]

Mr. Hanson: Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) was formed in 1997–98 financial year. The following table details the amount of money spent by RO (excluding receipts) through its three main funding streams, namely; Action Plan; Making Belfast Work (Area Teams); and Physical, since its formation. It should be noted that the amounts supplied in this table differ from information provided in response to an earlier parliamentary question on 9 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 1878, on BRO expenditure. I apologise to the hon. Gentleman as this was due to an administrative oversight which resulted in physical expenditure being excluded. It should also be noted that since 2002–03 and the 2003–04 financial years respectively BRO has no longer had responsibility for EU expenditure or Belfast City Centre. This has been a contributory factor to the decline in expenditure recorded against BRO.

	Amount (£)
1997–98	25,513,497
1998–99	13,912,247
1999–2000	22,649,589

	Amount (£)
2000–01	21,079,449
2001–02	18,189,856
2002–03	17,236,077
2003–04	7,899,261
2002–05	5,890,176
2005–06 (to date)	1,178,918

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women have been diagnosed with breast cancer in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [1442]

Mr. Woodward: The following table details the number of incidences of breast cancer in women in Northern Ireland for the years 1998–2002.

Breast cancer incidences in women in Northern Ireland from 1998–2002

Year of diagnosis	Northern Ireland total
1998	916
1999	947
2000	966
2001	916
2002	943

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Bullying

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland were withdrawn from school in each of the past five years because they were victims of bullying. [3493]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of Education does not collect the information requested. Pupils withdrawn from school because of bullying may be referred to the Education Welfare Service as non-attenders. While information on non-attendance referrals is collected, data on the reason for the poor attendance is not.

Cardiac Surgery

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients in each health board area are currently awaiting cardiac surgery in the Province. [1424]

Mr. Woodward: The number of people, in each health and social services board, who were awaiting admission to hospital in the cardiac surgery specialty, at 31 March 2005, is detailed in the following table.

Health board of residence	Total waiting
Eastern HSS Board	101
Northern HSS Board	66
Southern HSS Board	54
Western HSS Board	33
Northern Ireland	254

Figures exclude private patients and those resident outside Northern Ireland awaiting treatment in health and personal social services hospitals.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cardiac operations were performed in the Province in each of the last five years. [1425]

Mr. Woodward: The number of operations performed in the cardiac surgery specialty in hospitals in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, is detailed in the following table.

	Number of operations
2003–04	1,022
2002–03	1,128
2001–02	1,007
2000–01	1,088
1999–2000	1,135

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cardiac operations are scheduled to be performed in the Province in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [1427]

Mr. Woodward: The Royal Group of Hospitals Health and Social Services Trust is the regional provider of cardiac surgery for the people of Northern Ireland. Currently there are 800 patients expected to receive cardiac surgery at the Royal in 2005–06; each of these patients may require more than one operation. A similar figure has been estimated for 2006–07.

Care Home (Resident Numbers)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his latest estimate is of the number of persons in the Province aged over *(a)* 65, *(b)* 75 and *(c)* 85 years of age resident in (i) residential care homes, (ii) nursing homes and (iii) their own homes and receiving domiciliary care; and what the equivalent figures were (A) five and (B) 10 years ago. [1407]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not collected centrally. However, information is available for 2001 from the Northern Ireland Census of Population on the number of people resident in communal establishments including residential homes and nursing homes, and in private households, by age, and is shown in the following table. Comparable figures for 1991 are not available.

	Age		
Place of Residence	65 and over	75 and over	85 and over
Residential homes	3,325	2,891	1,573
Nursing homes	6,171	5,382	3,023
Other communal establishments	3,142	2,400	1,037
Private households	210,687	89,459	17,668
Total	223,325	100,132	23,301

Children in Need

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects that the Children in Need strategy will be published for public consultation. [1421]

Mr. Woodward: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is currently developing a strategic framework for children, young people and families. Consultation with key stakeholders from both the statutory and voluntary sectors will take place in the next few months at a series of workshops followed by a widespread public consultation in early 2006.

Classroom Assistants

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the job evaluation process for classroom assistants is expected to be finalised; and if he will make a statement. [4070]

Angela E. Smith: Classroom Assistants are employees of the local Education and Library Boards and issues relating to their terms and conditions of employment are therefore a matter for the Boards as employers. I understand that there are important issues that remain to be resolved between the Boards and Trade Union Side in respect of classroom assistants. I am assured that negotiations remain on-going and that their completion is a priority for all five Boards. In these circumstances, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further beyond confirming that funding has already been made available by the Department for arrears linked to this particular job evaluation exercise and is not affected by the current financial position of the Boards.

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the current *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time for (i) assessment for cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and (ii) commencement of CBT in each health board area in the Province is. [1435]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not available.

Cold-related Deaths

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths are estimated to have been caused by cold related illnesses in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [4151]

Angela E. Smith: Numbers of cold-related deaths are not available, as cold is not recorded as a cause of death in itself. For the period 1997 to 2004 the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland each year where hypothermia[1] was mentioned on the death certificate is given in the following table.

Deaths registered in Northern Ireland with hypothermia mentioned on the death certificate, 1997 to 2004

	Number
1997	22
1998	22
1999	12
2000	12
2001	16
2002	14
2003	8
2004 (provisional)	11

[1] Deaths with a mention of hypothermia defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 991.6 for the years 1997 to 2000 and, for the years 2001 to 2004, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T68.

Constituency Boundaries

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects hearings arising from responses to the draft recommendations for parliamentary election boundaries in Northern Ireland to take place. [5507]

Mr. Hain: A public notice and press release were issued by the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland on 14 June announcing that there would be three public Local Inquiries to be held in respect of all 14 parliamentary constituencies affected by the Boundary Commission's Provisional Recommendations published on 6 May 2004. They will begin on 5 September in Belfast, 14 September in Ballymena, and 19 September in Newcastle, Co Down.

Crime Detection Rates

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how he defines the clearance of offences for the purposes of determining the success of the Police Service of Northern Ireland crime detection rates. [4389]

Mr. Woodward: The PSNI state that a crime is deemed to be cleared when a notifiable offence has been committed and recorded; a suspect has been made aware that they will be recorded as being responsible for the crime; and there is sufficient evidence to charge the suspect with the crime.

There are a number of methods of clearance. Those involving a formal sanction are as follows:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender
- Issuing a caution to an offender
- Having the crime accepted for consideration in court
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning or restorative caution.

Crimes not involving a formal sanction but still regarded as 'cleared' are those where the police take no further action for the following reasons:

- Offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill
- Victim refuses or is unable to give evidence
- Offender is under the age of criminal responsibility
- Police or Public Prosecution Service decides that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding
- Time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.

Cross-border Rail Links

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on cross-border rail connections with the Republic of Ireland. [5221]

Mr. Woodward: The important rail service between Belfast and Dublin has operated for 150 years. The service is currently provided jointly by Northern Ireland Railways and Iarnrod Eireann, the Republic of Ireland operator. There are eight journeys in each direction from Monday to Saturday inclusive and five journeys each way on Sundays. Recent engineering works that have caused disruption to services have now been completed. The focus can now be on delivering improved punctuality and reliability.

Dentistry

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many NHS dentists there were in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years; and what steps he is taking to increase the numbers of dentists in Northern Ireland. [5502]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Number of health service general dental practitioners registered in Northern Ireland each year since 2001

As at 1 April each year	*Headcount*
2005	726
2004	720
2003	696
2002	689
2001	673

The vast majority of dentists are independent contractors and are not directly employed within the health and personal social services.

In order to facilitate the supply of suitably qualified dentists, the Department funds a one year vocational training (VT) scheme and a two-year general professional training (GPT) scheme. Prior to August 2000 there were 20 VT places, this has been increased to the current level of 24 VT places and four dental trainees in each year of the GPT scheme. This represents an annual total of 28 health service training places for graduate dentists in Northern Ireland.

The requirements for dentists are monitored through the Department's ongoing workforce planning process.

Digital Hearing Aids

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a target in Northern Ireland for time from referral of patients to receipt of digital hearing aids. [1408]

Mr. Woodward: Digital hearing aids have been provided in Northern Ireland since October 2003. A target of 5,000 digital hearing aids to issue each year was determined at that time. However, that expectation has been exceeded with over 15,000 digital hearing aids issued to date. The latest statistical information has indicated that the majority of those seeking digital hearing aids are seen within three months and that 85 per cent. are seen within six months. The Department is considering how it might extend partnerships with the private sector to further increase the provision of digital hearing aids.

Drugs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many reported incidents of illegal drug use *(a)* in and *(b)* outside schools in the Province there were in each of the last 10 years; [5308]

(2) how many cases of illegal drugs possession by school pupils on school premises occurred in each of the Province's education board areas in each of the last five years; [5309]

(3) how many needle stick injuries resulting from discarded needles on school premises have occurred in the Province in each of the last 10 years. [5310]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not available. The Department does not require schools to notify it, or the education and library boards, of incidents of illegal drug use, illegal drug possession or needle stick injuries. Schools have a duty in law to notify the police where they believe or suspect a pupil to be in possession of a controlled drug.

Education and Library Board Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the change in funding for education and library board services in Northern Ireland is for 2005–06, taking employment, pension, superannuation and other costs outside their budgets into account. [3487]

Angela E. Smith: The delegated budgets for schools funded through the education and library boards under Local Management of Schools arrangements increased by £59 million from £669 million in 2004–05 to £728 million in 2005–06, an increase of almost 9 per cent. Excluding increased superannuation costs for both teaching and non teaching staff and the costs of teachers progressing to point 2 of the upper pay scale, and taking account of falling pupil numbers, the percentage increase is 3.3 per cent. on a like for like basis.

Education and Library Board non-earmarked centre budgets rose by £19 million from £333 million in 2004–05 to £352 million in 2005–06, an increase of almost 6 per cent. Taking into account the increased costs referred to above, the percentage increase is almost 3 per cent. on a like for like basis.

Since these allocations were announced, the Government have also made available a further £2.5 million for Education and Library Boards, to support collaborative working across Boards.

Election Procedure

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of people used each of the four approved forms of identification at the general election in Northern Ireland on 5 May. [2799]

Mr. Hanson: The number and the proportion of people that used the four approved forms of identification at the general election in Northern Ireland on 5 May that were recorded by polling staff were as follows.

	Number	Percentage of total
Driving Licence	342500	51.6
Passport	189872	28.6
Senior SmartPass	74141	11.2
Electoral ID Card	56916	8.6
Total Recorded	663429	—
Total Poll	723768	—

The difference in the total recorded and the total poll is made up of voters who came to the polling station that polling staff did not count and the 24,200 who voted by post.

EU Accession Country Workers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect of the use of output-related payments to labour market intermediaries on the delivery of services to *(a)* ethnic minorities and *(b)* migrant workers from the EU Accession countries; and what plans he has to review the system. [5524]

Angela E. Smith: The Labour Market Intermediaries exist in three pilot areas of Belfast. They are supported by the Department for Employment and Learning. Job seekers from ethnic minorities and EU Accession countries who are legally entitled to work in Northern Ireland can avail of the services of the LMIs. An assessment of the LMI funding support arrangements, including the element that is output-related, will be undertaken as part of their formal evaluation which is scheduled to begin in September 2005.

Farmers (Loans)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people he expects to benefit from his recent announcement of low interest loans for young farmers in Northern Ireland. [5521]

Angela E. Smith: The new entrants scheme opened for applications on 6 June 2005. While it is difficult to estimate the level of demand, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has a target uptake of 600 young farmers over the next three years.

Forensic Examinations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to propose changes to the law to enhance the powers of civilian scenes of crime officers in Northern Ireland to carry out a forensic examination on a non-consenting suspect. [4086]

Mr. Woodward: There are currently no plans to change the law to enhance the powers of crime scene investigators (CSIs), as they are known within the PSNI, to carry out a forensic examination on a non-consenting suspect. CSIs currently have the power to take non-intimate samples with the written consent from a detained person (unless that person is detained under the Terrorism Act). Provisions are in place to facilitate forensic examinations on non-consenting suspects by constables and forensic medical officers.

I have been advised by the PSNI that they have recently increased the numbers of police officers trained within the serious crime branch investigation teams, in the process of cartridge discharge residue swabbing. This ensures the facilitation of forensic examination on non-consenting suspects, as required, and allows CSIs to be better utilized by being deployed at the scene of incidents that give rise to the detention of prisoners rather than in the processing of the prisoners themselves.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what extra resources are being provided to assist general practitioners in the Province in *(a)* the appraisal process for and *(b)* delivering special interest services. [1423]

Mr. Woodward: Since the introduction of the appraisal scheme in 2003–04, an additional payment of £300 per annum has been made to each general practitioner being appraised and a further payment of £300 is made to the GP appraiser for each appraisal carried out.

In relation to general practitioners delivering special interest services, no formal extra central funding is presently made available for this specific purpose, but Health and Social Services Boards do fund a small number of general practitioners for providing certain specialised services although the overall amount is not readily available.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many general practitioner surgeries in the Province have been *(a)* built and *(b)* modernised since June 1997. [1447]

Mr. Woodward: There are 32 general practitioner surgeries that have been built and 189 general practitioner surgeries have been modernised since 1997. The Eastern health and Social Services Board have only been able to provide information on modernized surgeries from 2001.

A further 13 surgeries are currently being modernised.

In addition, all 365 surgeries across the Province have benefited from improvement grants in respect of *(a)* security and *(b)* adaptations in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Hare Coursing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications he has received for the netting of hares for hare coursing; and if he will defer any decision on these applications until he has received the results of the survey of Irish hare numbers which the Department of Environment has recently commissioned. [4700]

Angela E. Smith: One application for a licence to net hares for hare coursing in October 205 has been received from the Ballymena Coursing Club.

My noble Friend, Lord Rooker, will take into account the status of the Irish hare population in considering that application.

Health Care Trusts

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many procedures each health

trust in the Province has bought *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the Province; and what the resultant costs were in each of the last five years. [1439]

Mr. Woodward: Health and social services trusts do not purchase procedures either within or outside Northern Ireland, any transfer of patients is the responsibility of the health and social services boards.

Higher Education Funding

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding for higher education colleges was made available by his Department in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years; and how much was made available for the North Down and Ards Institute. [2181]

Angela E. Smith: In 1999 responsibility for the funding of the further education colleges in Northern Ireland passed from the education and library boards to the Department for Higher and Further Education Training and Employment, now the Department for Employment and Learning. In the academic years 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 North Down and Ards Institute of Further and Higher Education received total FE recurrent and capital funding of £6.912 million, £7.869 million, £9.093 million, £10.846 million and £11.72 million respectively. The academic year runs from 1 August until 31 July and therefore the last full academic year for which details are available is year ended 31 July 2004. Detailed in the following table is the total recurrent and capital funding paid to all the further education colleges over the last five academic years.

DEL grants as per college audited accounts

£000

	Year end 31 July:				
College	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Armagh	3,873	3,734	3,986	5,060	5,788
BIFHE	23,111	27,813	28,243	34,785	33,968
Castlereagh	3,275	3,908	4,130	5,840	5,961
Causeway	4,230	4,686	5,202	5,190	6,392
East Antrim	4,808	6,493	7,168	7,972	8,071
East Down	4,441	4,848	5,239	5,826	5,710
East Tyrone	3,780	4,120	3,993	4,337	4,835
Fermanagh	4,247	4,246	4,650	5,888	6,578
Limavady	3,382	4,203	4,399	4,704	5,910
Lisburn	3,961	3,994	5,469	6,199	6,123
Newry and Kilkeel	5,978	6,577	7,892	9,762	10,838
NI Hotel and Catering College	1,898	1,817	1,974	[1]	—
North Down	6,912	7,869	9,093	10,846	11,720
North East	7,315	8,957	9,655	10,095	11,064
North West	11,822	14,097	16,017	18,138	18,953
Omagh	3,373	3,793	4,306	4,840	4,909
Upper Bann	6,312	7,056	7,555	7,958	9,377
Total	102,718	118,211	128,971	147,440	156,197

[1] Amalgamated with university of Ulster.

Home Teaching

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland are taught at home; and what guidance or assistance is offered to those parents or guardians wishing to teach their children at home. [3494]

Angela E. Smith: On 1 June 2005 the number of children being educated at home in each education and library board is as follows:

Board area	*Number of pupils*
BELB	5
WELB	28
NEELB	49
SEELB	16
SELB	60
Total	158

A parent seeking advice on educating their child at home will be directed to an appropriate source such as an education and library board or council for the curriculum, examinations and assessment (CCEA).

Hospital Meals

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether patients in Northern Ireland hospitals have been surveyed in 2005 to establish the level of satisfaction with hospital meals. [5548]

Mr. Woodward: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has conducted a Public Attitudes Survey of the Health and Personal Social Services annually since 2003. Fieldwork for the 2005 survey has recently been completed but results are not yet available. The 2004 survey questioned 1,500 members of the public on their experience of using the Health Service in Northern Ireland. Fourteen percent of all respondents had an overnight stay in hospital during the previous twelve months. Those who had an overnight stay were asked to rate the quality of the hospital food, and for those who expressed an opinion, the results were as follows:

Satisfaction rating of the quality of hospital food	*Percentage*
Excellent	15.7
Good	36.5
Fair	24.9
Poor	22.8

When the figures are combined this shows that 52.2 per cent. of respondents rated the quality of hospital food as either good or excellent, while 47.8 per cent. rated it as either fair or poor.

Hydebank Prison

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the chief inspector of Criminal Justice and HM chief inspector of prisons following their recent inspection of Hydebank prison. [3505]

Mr. Woodward: Following the joint inspection last November, the Northern Ireland Prison Service published its action plan on the Prison Service's website which will be updated quarterly. The action plan responds to each of the 96 recommendations, around one-third of which have been implemented since the publication of the Inspection report on 26 May.

Two senior managers from HM Prison Service have been seconded to assist in the development of policy for female prisoners and Hydebank Wood has dedicated a

NIPS female governor exclusively to Ash House. A policy team whose role will include liaison with female prisoners and consultation with external organisations has also been appointed. Policies will be subject to consultation wherever appropriate.

Identity Cards

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on the Government's plan to introduce a national identity card scheme. [3514]

Mr. Hain: The Association of Chief Police Officers, of which the Chief Constable of the PSNI is a member, has been involved in extensive consultation with the Home Office about the Government's proposal for a national identity card scheme across the UK.

Incapacity/Industrial Injury Benefits

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many residents in *(a)* Newtownards, *(b)* Comber, *(c)* Dundonald, *(d)* Carryduff and *(e)* Killyleagh were in receipt of (i) incapacity benefit and (ii) industrial injury benefits in each of the last three years. [5325]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows.

Incapacity benefit as at August each year

Number

Area	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Newtownards	3,610	3,765	3,777
Comber	396	412	403
Dundonald	109	111	111
Carryduff	236	243	230
Killyleagh	143	132	129

Industrial injuries as at August each year

Number

Area	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Newtownards	n/a	593	623
Comber	n/a	77	76
Dundonald	n/a	34	34
Carryduff	n/a	34	39
Killyleagh	n/a	10	13

A geographical breakdown of industrial injuries benefit claimants is unavailable for 2002.

Inter-departmental Group on Personal Care

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who the members are of the inter-departmental group on personal care; and how many times the group has met in each year since its formation. [4386]

Mr. Woodward: The membership of the inter-departmental group on personal care convened in September 2001 comprised senior officials from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department for Social Development. The inter-development group was supported by a sub-group which brought forward its findings for consideration and agreement by the inter-departmental group.

The groups met regularly in the course of preparing the report submitted to the Executive on 8 August 2002. The work on costed options has been updated annually following the collapse of the devolved administration.

Libraries

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many libraries he expects will be operational in Northern Ireland in 2006. [5505]

Mr. Hanson: My expectation is that there will be 115 branch libraries in 2006. In addition there are 33 mobile libraries.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on the purchase of new books for libraries in each education board area in each of the last five years. [5506]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out details of the amount spent by each of the Education and Library Boards on the purchase of new books in each of the last five years.

£000

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
BELB	445	371	497	125	[1]173
NEELB	336	274	577	342	[1]173
SEELB	490	565	472	266	[1]118
SELB	394	[2]228	334	119	[1]117
WELB	89	262	332	143	[1]176

[1] Information sourced directly from boards, published figures not yet available.

[2] Figure sourced directly from board, not included in published returns for this year

Note:

This information includes monies spent on reference books, adult fiction, adult non-fiction and children's books. It does not cover newspapers, periodicals, magazines or electronic media.

Source:

Remainder of figures sourced from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Public Library Statistics Publication.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what regulation his Department carries out of *(a)* charging levels and *(b)* practices relating to the delivery of services in public libraries in Northern Ireland. [5525]

Mr. Hanson: Charging levels for library services are a matter for the Education and Library Boards to determine. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has meetings three times a year with the Chief Librarians and twice a year with other senior officers of the boards at which a range of practice issues, among other matters, are discussed.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to review the public private partnership arrangement between the Department of Education and Amey plc for the delivery of some library services. [5527]

Mr. Hanson: The contract for the Electronic Libraries for Northern Ireland (ELFNI) project was signed in 2002 by the North Eastern Education and Library Board and Amey BPO Services Ltd., and runs until 2012 under a public-private partnership. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, which has responsibility for the public library service, has no plans to review this arrangement.

The Department, together with the five Education and Library Boards, monitors the delivery and effectiveness of the project through regular monitoring arrangements.

Life Sentences

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to introduce a statutory framework for life sentence tariffs in Northern Ireland. [4383]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have been considering the responses received from the public consultation carried out in Northern Ireland last year on minimum terms in life sentence cases. A separate consultation on a review of the sentencing framework in Northern Ireland has recently ended. I will now be considering the way forward in light of both consultations.

Listed Buildings (Portstewart)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, excluding legal costs, was in connection with the case pursued by the Department on the demolition of listed buildings at the Diamond in Portstewart during August 2003. [5504]

Angela E. Smith: The cost to the Department of the Environment (excluding legal costs) for the preparation of the prosecution case for the demolition of 9/11 the Diamond, Portstewart was in the region of £8,500.

In addition to the prosecution case, the Department was also dealing with retrospective applications for planning permission and listed-building consent at the site and also the subsequent appeals. It is not possible to apportion the time spent on each of these as they are all interlinked and the Department does not keep itemised records of staff time spent on each case.

Lock Out Crime Scheme

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the lock out crime scheme in tackling crime in the areas in which it has been in operation; and what plans he has to extend it throughout Northern Ireland; [3484]

(2) how many people have applied for assistance under the lock out crime scheme since its inception; and how many of these applicants were successful; [3485]

(3) if he will make a statement on the criteria used when assessing applicants to the lock out crime scheme. [3486]

Mr. Hanson: The lock out crime scheme aims to provide additional home security in the form of door and window locks, exterior lighting and front door security free of charge to all those in Northern Ireland aged 65 and over, who are in receipt of housing benefit of rate rebate. The scheme is funded by the Northern Ireland Office and delivered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

There is no application process. The Housing Executive identify all eligible older people and write to each one individually offering the benefits of the scheme. To date 19,500 letters have been issued and 5,526 individuals have returned forms and will be admitted to the scheme. A further 7,500 letters have also been issued on which final information about returns have not yet been compiled. The scheme applies right across Northern Ireland, but has been rolled out on a district council basis. All those eligible aged 75 and over will be contacted by July 2005 and those aged 65 and over by mid 2006.

The criteria used in the scheme targets those older people in the community least able to afford home security. There are almost 250,000 older people in Northern Ireland and the Government could not offer the free supply and installation of home security measures under the lock out crime (LOC) scheme universally within current resources. I was however pleased to recently announce a reduction in the age criteria for the scheme from 75 to 65.

There are no plans to carry out a formal evaluation of LOC. Recipients of LOC are asked to complete a satisfaction survey after completion of the work and the NIHE undertake random evaluation from scheme recipients.

While NIHE do intend to provide information about their findings from this survey it was not possible in the time available from notification about this PQ to provide any meaningful data. However anecdotal and first hand information from recipients clearly indicate that the additional security makes them feel more secure, particularly at night.

Marfan Syndrome

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provision there is in the Province for sufferers of Marfan syndrome. [1399]

Mr. Woodward: Marfan's syndrome is a rare, but distressing, condition that affects a small number of people in Northern Ireland. Currently, patients suffering from this syndrome are treated by consultants working in the Regional Genetics Centre at Belfast City Hospital and other appropriate specialists, particularly those within the cardiology unit at the Royal Group of hospitals. The specialist clinicians in this area already work quite closely with one another to provide quality care for all patients and their families. They are moving towards closer and more formal links to further improve the care provided to families in terms of screening for genetic abnormalities, counselling and appropriate treatment.

Mental Health

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will implement the recommendations of the Appleby Report on the National Service Framework for Mental Health. [1402]

Mr. Woodward: The National Service Framework for Mental Health is a vision for mental health in England and Wales. It does not apply to Northern Ireland. At present, mental health services are being considered by the Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability chaired by Professor David Bamford.

MRI Scans

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of instituting MRI waiting list initiative schemes throughout Northern Ireland. [1418]

Mr. Woodward: There are currently nine MRI scanners in Northern Ireland, with two more planned to come into operation in 2006.

Health and social services boards in Northern Ireland have in recent years undertaken a range of MRI waiting list initiatives which have contributed to alleviating waiting lists and improving waiting times for MRI scans. These include engaging mobile MRI scanning units, introducing evening scanning sessions and utilising private MRI facilities within Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

As MRI capacity within the health and personal social services develops, the need for further waiting list initiatives will be kept under review.

Multi-storey Car Parking (Coleraine)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects multi-storey car parking provision to be made available in Coleraine. [5545]

Mr. Hanson: Despite the best endeavours of Roads Service to develop a multi-storey car park on the existing ground level car park in Abbey Street, the legal advice is that the statutory powers vested in the Agency would not be sufficient for the type of development required.

The powers for development of such lands are vested in the Department for Social Development (DSD) under Article 87 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. The Department for Social Development is considering how best to take forward developments on the Mall and Abbey Street car parks in Coleraine town centre. Subject to the response from the private sector to the development opportunities presented by the sites, it is anticipated that work could begin during 2006.

Neighbourhood Renewal (North Belfast)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in North Belfast. [5346]

Mr. Hanson: Since the launch of Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy "People and Place" in June 2003 by the then Minister for Social Development, (Mr. Spellar), good progress has been made in North Belfast.

To date 15 organisation's have received funding totalling £923,390 under phases 1 and 2 of the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund with a further 11 organisations currently under consideration.

Work is also underway to create Neighbourhood Partnerships in each of the four Neighbourhood Renewal Area's namely: Inner City North Belfast; Crumlin/ Ardoyne; Upper Ardoyne/Ligoniel; and Rathcoole.

The Inner City North Belfast Partnership has submitted a "Statement of Readiness" to the Department for Social Development and it is expected this will receive approval in the next few days. At that stage the Partnership will commence work in developing the Neighbourhood "Vision Framework" and "Action Plan" for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on *(a)* new build housing, *(b)* urban renewal areas and *(c)* renovation and repair in the social housing sector in North Belfast in each year since 2001. [5347]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is set out in the following table and shows land and property acquisition costs which are an essential complement to the expenditure on urban renewal areas but not forming part of that expenditure.

£ million

		Urban renewal areas and associated land and property acquisition			*Renovation and repair*	
	New build social housing	*Urban renewal areas*	*Land acquisition*	*Property acquisitions*	*Capital improvement*	*Revenue maintenance*
2001–2002	16.0	0.7	1.3	0.6	17.4	6.1
2002–2003	19.2	2.1	1	0.9	3	9
2003–2004	31.6	4.8	1.4	0.8	1.8	6.5
2004–2005	27.5	2.5	1.2	1.4	3.4	3. 2

NHS Overseas Staff

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many overseas staff are employed in the NHS in Northern Ireland. [5549]

Mr. Woodward: The information is not available in the format requested.

Parades

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of policing parades for which a form 11/1 was *(a)* completed and *(b)* not completed in each of the last five years. [3828]

Mr. Woodward: The cost of policing each separate parade held in Northern Ireland, whether an 11/1

(application to parade) form is completed or not completed, is not centrally held and is difficult to place an exact figure upon. To obtain such information would involve a manual trawl across records held by 29 District Command Units. This question can therefore only be answered by incurring disproportionate costs.

Patient Waiting Times

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of patients experienced waits of longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* four hours in each accident and emergency department in the Province in each of the last five years. [5350]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not collected in the format requested.

Personal Care (Elderly People)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on the introduction of free personal care for the elderly in Northern Ireland. [4387]

Mr. Woodward: The inter-departmental group's report on free personal are was submitted to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on 8 August 2002. Following discussion at the Executive, Ministers asked for further work on costed options to be undertaken.

The further work was completed but could not be reported back to the Executive because of the suspension of the devolved administration. I have, however, asked officials to bring forward the findings so that I may consider them in the context of other Budget priorities.

Phoenix Natural Gas

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to assess the effect on consumers of the proposed acquisition of Phoenix Natural Gas as part of East Surrey Holdings by Terra Firma Capital Partners Ltd. [1057]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has a statutory role in relation to the Phoenix Natural Gas licence in the event of any change of ownership. Specialist consultants have been appointed to assist the Department in its assessment of the proposed Terra Firma transaction. The Department will consider all information relating to the transfer in accordance with its statutory obligation to promote the development of an efficient, economic and co-ordinated gas industry in Northern Ireland.

Police Oversight Commissioner

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of the operation of the office of the Police Oversight Commissioner has been in each year since its formation. [5522]

Mr. Woodward: I have been informed by the office of the Police Oversight Commissioner that the operational costs since its establishment are as follows.

	£
May 2000 to March 2001	404,434
Year ending March:	
2002	653,823
2003	785,930
2004	735,175
2005	715,206

Political Parties (Donations)

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what requirements there are on Northern Ireland political parties to publish information on donations; and if he will make a statement. [1265]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland parties are currently exempted from the requirement to comply with part IV of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 that set out the control and disclosure of donations to registered parties. However, the Government have made clear that there should be a move to greater transparency in the political donation requirements in Northern Ireland, and we are currently reflecting on how best to achieve this.

The main Northern Ireland political parties, like other UK parties, are required to submit an annual statement of accounts to the Electoral Commission, who publish these statements. Parties whose total income or gross expenditure is less than £250,000 are required to submit a statement of accounts within three months of their year end. Those parties that exceed this limit are required to submit their statement of accounts within six months of their year end.

Post-primary Education

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he will answer the letter to him dated 11 April from the hon. Member for North Down in relation to the future of post-primary education in Northern Ireland. [5551]

Ms Angela E. Smith: The hon. Lady's letter of 11 April was replied to on 27 April.

Prison Service Efficiency Programme

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable is for the implementation of the recommendations arising from the review of the Northern Ireland Prison Service Efficiency Programme. [3470]

Mr. Woodward: Following publication of an independent review of the Prison Service's Efficiency Programme on 6 June, the Director General announced a strategic programme for the development of the service over the next 10 to 15 years. This wider programme encompasses the existing efficiency work.

The main plan is due to be prepared before the end of this year. However the full implementation of the plan will take a number of years, depending on various factors including consultation with interested parties and the availability of resources.

Private Finance Initiative Projects

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total value is of private finance initiative projects in the Province granted approval in each year since 1997, broken down by department. [1412]

Angela E. Smith: The capital values of PFI projects which have been granted approval and a contract awarded are detailed as follows.

Contract awarded/Department	*Capital value (£ million)*
1997	
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	3.3
1998	
Education	3.3
Employment and Learning	[1]38
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	22.3
1999	
Education	6.5
Employment and Learning	10
Finance and Personnel	[1]45
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	3.7
Regional Development	12
2000	
Education	28.5
Employment and Learning	20
Social Development	[1]26.5
2001	
Education	[1]15.9
Environment	14
2002	
Culture, Arts and Leisure	[1]36.5
Education	[1]26.2
2003	
Education	[1]126.2
Employment and Learning	32
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	42
2004	
Culture, Arts and Leisure	3
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	[2]53
2005	
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	15.7

[1] These figures relate to the estimated costs for the provision of Information Technology Systems and services over the life of the contracts rather than capital values.

[2] This figure relates to the estimated costs of a contract for the provision of office accommodation services for a period of 25 years rather than the capital value.

Pupil Expulsions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* expelled from schools in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in the last three years for which figures are available. [3495]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Number of pupils suspended in each education and library board

	BELB	*WELB*	*NEELB*	*SEELB*	*SELB*	*Total*
2001–02	1,277	882	1,107	919	914	5,099
2002–03	1,014	906	1,201	992	1,169	5,282
2003–04	1,191	936	1,286	987	1,085	5,485

(b) Number of pupils expelled in each education and library board area

	BELB	*WELB*	*NEELB*	*SEELB*	*SELB*	*Total*
2001–02	7	16	18	12	23	76
2002–03	18	12	17	16	7	70
2003–04	6	12	15	12	26	71

Racist Attacks

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many racist attacks have occurred in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland over the last three years; and what steps have been taken by the agencies to combat such attacks. [4069]

Mr. Woodward: The statistics are not available in the format requested as the Police Service of Northern Ireland record statistics by District Command Unit rather than by parliamentary constituency. These statistics are set out in the following table:

Number of racial incidents[1]—2002–03 and 2003–04

District command unit	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05[2]*
Urban region			
North Belfast	16	27	76
South Belfast	58	147	159
East Belfast	11	32	54
West Belfast	0	11	13
Castlereagh	8	10	12
North Down	17	18	19
Newtownabbey	18	18	15
Antrim	0	4	23
Carrickfergus	2	4	21
Lisburn	6	16	28
Lame	5	2	0
Ards	0	0	25
Total for Region	141	289	445
Rural region			
Ballymena	6	37	52
Ballymoney	2	3	8
Coleraine	3	7	22
Limavady	1	2	7
Foyle	5	12	40
Moyle	1	0	1
Magherafelt	0	1	9
Strabane	0	0	3
Omagh	2	2	6
Fermanagh	2	5	18
Armagh	4	14	14
Banbridge	0	2	1
Craigavon	35	31	79
Cookstown	14	11	16
Down	1	5	8
Newry and Mourne	2	11	15
Dungannon and South Tyrone	7	21	69
Total for Region	85	164	368
Overall Total	226	453	813

[1] Racial incidents include murder, physical assault, verbal abuse/ threat, attack on home, attack on property, graffiti and written material.

[2] Not directly comparable with earlier years.

A new method of recording these figures was introduced in 2004–05. The statistics issued by the Chief Constable are now aligned with Home Office practice and as a result the figures for 2004–05 are not directly comparable with the figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04.

PSNI believe the rise in figures to be due to an increase in racially motivated offences, improved confidence in the PSNI amongst minority ethnic communities and improved recording systems.

The Government are currently taking steps to tackle the issue of racially motivated incidents. The Criminal Justice (No2) (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 has already been introduced. This directs the courts to take account during sentencing of any offence where there is evidence of hostility based on, among other things, race, and it increases the maximum sentences available for certain specified, mainly violent offences including where racial aggravation is proven.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is investing considerable time and effort in addressing race crime. Recent initiatives include the introduction of an on-line reporting system on the PSNI website as part of the "Hate Crime is Wrong" campaign. minority liaison officers have been appointed in each District Command Unit. Their role is to record and monitor racially motivated and other types of hate crime in their area, advise and support victims of such crime, and work in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies to address these issues. The PSNI has also introduced targeted patrolling in areas where people are deemed to be at greatest risk of attack and are working in partnership with other agencies to develop solution to the problem.

The PSNI is determined to investigate fully all hate related incidents and where possible to secure sufficient evidence to prosecute offenders.

Rates Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the proposals for domestic rates reform will be revenue-neutral. [4328]

Angela E. Smith: Yes. The level of annual rates increases will be considered in the course of the Budget process.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable is for reform of domestic rates. [4329]

Angela E. Smith: The reforms of the domestic rating system in Northern Ireland will be introduced in April 2007.

Recorded Crime (North Belfast)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many crimes have been recorded in *(a)* North Belfast and *(b)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; in how many cases there was a detection; in how many cases proceedings were commenced; and in how many cases convictions were secured. [4390]

Mr. Woodward: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has provided the following statistics in relation to the number of crimes recorded and cleared by the police since 2000: Unfortunately PSNI Statistics Branch does not hold information prior to this date.

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
(a) North Belfast District Command Unit					
Crimes recorded	10,029	12,605	12,137	9,698	8,637
Crimes cleared by method of clearance:					
Charge/summons	1,133	667	1,032	939	1,032
Adult caution/informed warning	192	77	129	83	68
Taken into consideration by the court	26	1	6	1	11
Juvenile restorative caution/informed warning	108	55	113	55	41
Offender under age	20	8	10	18	11
Complainant declined to prosecute	628	378	557	796	573
DCU Commander/DPP/PPS direct no prosecution	120	58	31	29	20
Otherwise disposed of	18	21	21	21	13
Total crimes cleared	2,245	1,265	1,899	1,942	1,769
(b) Northern Ireland					
Crimes recorded	119,912	139,786	142,496	127,953	118,124
Crimes cleared by method of clearance:					
Charge/summons	13,052	11,808	13,896	14,375	14,631
Adult caution/informed warning	2,795	2,079	2,393	2,227	2,206
Taken into consideration by the court	1,151	439	612	534	457
Juvenile restorative caution/informed warning	1,927	1,427	1,554	1,427	1,421
Offender under age	245	219	177	169	211
Complainant declined to prosecute	10,874	10,140	12,051	14,361	12,230
DCU Commander /DPP/PPS direct no prosecution	2,232	1,652	1,438	1,542	1,788
Otherwise disposed of	246	378	685	458	400
Total crimes cleared	32,522	28,142	32,806	35,093	33,344

Statistics relating to prosecution and convictions are provided in the following table:

	Prosecutions		*Convictions*	
	Northern Ireland	*North Belfast*	*Northern Ireland*	*North Belfast*
1997	35,599	1,566	30,964	1,422
1998	31,127	1,296	26,880	1,136
1999	30,439	1,166	26,524	1,057
2000	30,492	—	26,618	—
2001	28,563	—	24,350	—
2002	28,044	—	24,100	—
2003	30,937	—	26,675	—

Notes:

1. The figures above are based on the principal offence rule so only the most serious offence for which a person is proceeded against is included.
2. From 2000, prosecutions data are drawn from the PSNI Integrated Crime Information System, which only records the District Command Unit to which an offender's address relates. Figures are not therefore available for proceedings stemming from crimes reported to North Belfast after 1999.
3. Information is not yet available for prosecutions and convictions made after 2003.

Roads and Street Works Legislation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will subject the roads and water services, along with private developers and utility companies, to an independent regulator to ensure full compliance with the terms of roads and street works legislation in Northern Ireland. [3604]

Mr. Woodward: The Street Works (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 is the Northern Ireland equivalent of GB legislation, designed to regulate the opening and reinstatement of public roads by utilities. Also, any private developer placing or retaining apparatus in the street must have a street works licence and comply with the requirements of the Street Works Order. This regime is regulated and enforced by Roads Service. I believe this regulation is effective, and there is no need for an additional regulator. Water Service aims to comply fully with the terms of the order; however, as it is an agency of the Crown it cannot currently be prosecuted as other utilities. This will change when Water Service becomes a Government owned company. In the interim, any offences by Water Service, which would be prosecutable under the legislation, will be recorded in a register along with the remedial actions agreed with Roads Service.

Works for roads purposes, on the other hand, is specifically excluded from the Street Works Order. This is the same as the position in the rest of the UK, where in no instance is the work of highway authorities covered by the street works legislation, nor is it subject to independent regulation.

The safety of the work operations themselves is subject to the Health and Safety legislation, which is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive. This would apply to promote safe working practices, such as avoiding underground pipes or cables being damaged. All of the parties you mention are treated equally under this legislation.

Roads Service is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the road infrastructure to keep it safe, effective and reliable and to preserve the value of the asset. With utilities making over 45,000 openings each year I am sure that you will appreciate it is important that Roads Service retains enforcement responsibilities for Street Works in respect of the various agencies working there.

I can confirm there are no plans for Roads Service to relinquish this authority by introducing an independent regulator.

School Crossing Patrols

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment his Department has made of whether there will be an effect on child safety of the recent decision of the south eastern education and library board to cut school crossing patrol services within its catchment area. [3620]

Angela E. Smith: Education and library boards apply nationally agreed guidelines to assess the level of risk before reaching decisions on the future provision of specific school crossing patrols. The assessed risk is based on factors such as sight-lines, volume and type of traffic, width of road, availability of footpaths, central refuges/pedestrian crossings/traffic signals, etc. Boards decisions are, therefore, based on ensuring that the safety of pupils is not jeopardised.

Special Needs Children

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the longest time was that a special needs child waited to be statemented within each of the education and library boards in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [4107]

Angela E. Smith: The majority of statutory assessments are completed and formal statements of special educational needs made within 18 weeks from the date of request, in line with the Education (NI) Order 1996 and the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs 1998. However, in some circumstances delays occur for a range of reasons related to the specific case, including levels of parental co-operation with the required process.

The longest times taken from receipt of request to the making of the formal statements are:

	Length of time taken from receipt of request
BELB	11 years
NEELB	41 weeks
SEELB	2 years
SELB	27 months
WELB	64.5 weeks

Speed Cameras

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much revenue was generated by

speed cameras in each police district command unit area in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available; and how much of this money was spent on road safety initiatives. [3504]

Mr. Woodward: The revenue generated by speed cameras in each police district command unit area is as detailed in the following table. All such fine revenue is paid into the UK consolidated fund. The unique nature of how the PSNI is funded means that the PSNI currently only recovers costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the N.I. Safety Camera scheme. As such, none of the revenue generated by the scheme is returned to PSNI for the express purpose of funding road safety initiatives at present.

DCU area	*Number of notices paid*	*Total fines (£60 per notice)*
PSNI rural region		
Armagh DCU	85	5,100
Ballymena DCU	134	8,040
Ballymoney DCU	21	1,260
Banbridge DCU	779	46,740
Coleraine DCU	84	5,040
Cookstown DCU	46	2,760
Craigavon DCU	323	19,380
Down DCU	281	16,680
Dungannon DCU	153	9,180
Fermanagh DCU	77	4,620
Foyle DCU	445	26,700
Limavady DCU	17	1,020
Magherafelt DCU	130	7,800
Moyle DCU	31	1,860
Newry and Mourne DCU	1,114	66,840
Omagh DCU	260	15,600
Strabane DCU	1	60
(unknown DCU area)	2	120
PSNI urban region		
Antrim DCU	72	4,320
Belfast East DCU	1,979	118,740
Belfast North DCU	931	55,860
Belfast South DCU	212	12,720
Belfast West DCU	469	28,140
Carrickfergus DCU	65	3,900
Castlereagh DCU	2,964	161,640
Lisburn DCU	5	300
Newtownabbey DCU	6	360
Newtownards DCU	50	3,000
North Down DCU	1,274	76,440

Suicide

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths by suicide were recorded in each health trust area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [3475]

Angela E. Smith: The following table gives the number of deaths in Northern Ireland of residents of each health and social services trust area for the years 2000 to 2004, where the cause of death was recorded as either 'suicide and self-inflicted injury'[1] or 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted'[2].

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes X60-X84, Y87.0 for years 2001–04 and Ninth Revision codes E950-E959 for 2000.

[2] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes Y10-Y34, Y87.2 for years 2001–04 and Ninth Revision codes E980-E989 for 2000.

Number of deaths in Northern Ireland of residents of each health and social services board and trust area by year due to 'suicide and self-inflicted injury' or 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted'

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]	*2000–04*[1]
Eastern health and social services board	90	69	71	59	61	350
Down Lisburn	18	17	15	20	12	82
North and West Belfast	31	17	21	20	22	111
South and East Belfast	22	17	16	12	14	81
Ulster Community	19	18	19	7	13	76
Northern health and social services board	38	31	47	33	26	175
Causeway	7	6	8	9	5	35
Homefirst	31	25	39	24	21	140
Southern health and social services board	27	33	35	30	30	155
Armagh and Dungannon	1	7	10	4	7	29
Craigavon and Banbridge	11	19	13	19	14	76
Newry and Mourne	15	7	12	7	9	50
Western health and social services board	30	25	30	22	28	135
Foyle	17	8	18	16	17	76
Sperrin Lakeland	13	17	12	6	11	59
Northern Ireland	185	158	183	144	145	815

[1] Data for 2004 is provisional

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce a regional strategy for the prevention of suicides in Northern Ireland. [1356]

Mr. Woodward: The Promoting Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan, launched in January 2003 includes a specific section on preventing suicide. Following the recommendation of the Strategy Implementation Group we have recently established a small group to consider the actions in the strategy relating to suicide prevention. This group has been tasked to make recommendations by the end of October 2005 on what further measures need to be put in place to address the issue.

Surgical Site Infections

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether occurrences of surgical site infections are *(a)* reported and *(b)* recorded in the Province. [1409]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance Centre (HISC) leads on surveillance of surgical site infection (SSI). HISC assists acute trusts in Northern Ireland in undertaking health care associated infection (HCAI) surveillance. A regional surveillance programme for surgical site infection in elective orthopaedics is in place which makes it mandatory for all hospitals in Northern Ireland performing adult elective orthopaedic surgery to provide data on HCAI to HISC. Data can be accessed via website: www.hisc.n-i.nhs.uk. The Royal Jubilee Maternity Unit has piloted post-discharge surveillance of caesarean section site infection. This will be reported on and a regional approach determined.

The 'Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) In Northern Ireland' is scheduled to be issued for formal public consultation at the end of June 2005. Included in the strategy are a number of recommendations aimed to further develop comprehensive HCAI surveillance programmes in acute trusts in Northern Ireland.

Traffic Calming (Strangford)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many successful requests for traffic calming measures are awaiting action by the Department of Regional Developments Roads Service section within the Strangford constituency; what the average time between approval and completion of work was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [4104]

Mr. Woodward: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin to Mrs Iris Robinson, dated 14 June 2005:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question:

"how many successful requests for traffic calming measures are awaiting action by the Department of Regional Development's Roads Service section within the Strangford constituency; what the average time between approval and completion of work was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement."

I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service.

As you will be aware, the Strangford Constituency incorporates parts of both our Eastern and Southern Divisions. The schemes currently listed for the 2005/06 and 2006/07 years are as follows:

Schemes currently listed

2005–06	
Scrabo Estate (N'ards)	Ready to commence construction
Railway St (Comber)	Currently dealing with objections
Portaferry (approach to town)	Consultation began 20 May 2005
Saintfield (approach to town)	Consultation began 13 June 2005
Killynure Road (Carryduff)	At design stage
Moneyrea Village	At design stage
Gransha Road (Dundonald)	At design stage

Schemes currently listed

2006–07	
Movilla St (N'ards)	Programmed
Killinchy (approach to village)	Programmed
Parsonage Rd (Kircubbin)	Programmed
Old Ballygowan Rd (Comber)	Programmed
Downpatrick Rd Crossgar	Programmed

(No schemes have been listed for our Eastern Divisional area for 06/07 year as their traffic calming programme has yet to be finalised.)

The time between approval of a scheme and completion of the work may vary from two months to one year depending on the consultation process and the contractor's workload and logistics, but an average timescale would normally be six months. However, I should point out that schemes completed in the 2004/05 financial year in the Strangford constituency averaged 8 months due to a problem with the supply of signs that has since been resolved.

Video Identification

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on the use of video identification in place of identity parades in Northern Ireland. [4087]

Mr. Woodward: The Police Service of Northern Ireland plans to introduce the Video Identification Parade Electronic Recording (VIPER) system in Northern Ireland later this year.

The Government see considerable merit in the use of video identification technology, which has already proved very successful in England and Wales. It will significantly enhance the effectiveness of the current identification procedures and remove many of the operational difficulties experienced by the PSNI in arranging live identification parades. Its introduction in Northern Ireland will benefit all those involved in the Criminal Justice system, including the Police Service, the Prosecution Service, the legal profession, suspects and witnesses.

My officials have therefore been working closely with police colleagues on arrangements which will facilitate the early introduction of the new system.

Water Services

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to identify which households in Northern Ireland are not connected to mains water or sewerage. [5741]

Mr. Woodward: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Katharine Bryan to Mr. Eddie McGrady, dated 17 June 2005:

You recently asked a Parliamentary Question asking what steps are being taken to identify which households in Northern Ireland are not connected to mains water or sewerage (5741). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

Around 99% of households are connected to the public water supply and around 83% are served by public sewers. We do not currently hold comprehensive records of all households connected to mains water or sewerage services and are therefore not aware of the details of those households not connected. Water Service

applies a system of reasonable cost allowance to determine whether applications for new first time services can be fully met at public expense.

However, in preparation for the proposed introduction of domestic charging a comprehensive Customer Database is being developed. This process includes liaison with other government agencies and available data is matched with our water and sewerage infrastructure records. This is a significant task and we are going to considerable lengths to ensure maximum accuracy in the data which will be required to support future customer services.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action he is taking to improve water quality at the Northern Ireland beaches where water quality failed to meet the mandatory European Community standard. [3506]

Angela E. Smith: In 2004, 14 of the 16 (87.5 per cent.) identified bathing waters met the mandatory standards of the Directive, however, those at Castlerock and Ballyholme failed to comply.

The failure to meet mandatory standards was due mainly to the wet weather during the summer period Studies have shown there is a direct correlation between bathing water compliance levels and the frequency and intensity of rainfall during the bathing season. Heavier rainfall leads to an increase in the number of spills from combined sewer overflows and an increase in agricultural run-off.

To address the sewerage problems, Water Service has commenced construction of a new wastewater treatment works to serve the North Coast. It is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2007. The works will treat all wastewater from Portrush, Portstewart, Coleraine, Castlerock and Articlave. This should result in an overall improvement in the bathing water quality in the North Coast area.

Water Service plans to construct a new wastewater treatment works at Donaghadee to treat the wastewater from Bangor, Donaghadee and Millisle. The project is schedule for completion in December 2007. In addition, a number of Drainage Area Studies in the North Down area, have been completed and have identified approximately £13 million of networks improvements. Major programmes of work to implement the necessary improvements will be implemented on a phased basis from 2006. Completion of this investment will result in an overall improvement in the bathing water quality in the area.

Action is also being taken to control diffuse pollution from agricultural sources through the imminent introduction of an action programme under the EC Nitrates Directive.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether health and safety procedures at water service installations have been reviewed since the fatal accident at Carnmoney, County Londonderry on 2 June. [3027]

Mr. Woodward: Firstly I would like to take this further opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Stevenson, who so tragically lost his life in the accident at Carmoney.

Following the events of 2 June, an independent inquiry by the Health and Safety Executive (NI) is under way. Water Service is liaising closely with them as their investigation proceeds and will, of course, take immediate action to implement any actions, should they be recommended as a result of this investigation.

In the meantime, Water Service has completed a precautionary inspection at all other 18 similar installations across Northern Ireland, which are essential for the maintenance of drinking water quality and is satisfied that the health and safety procedures are robust. I am assured that it is safe for the installations to continue operating.

Working Time Directive

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action has been taken to penalise health service bodies who remain non-compliant with the European Working Time Directive, as applied in Northern Ireland. [1404]

Mr. Woodward: Health and Personal Social Services employers would be liable under Health and Safety Legislation if they breach the European Working Time Directive requirements. This liability may take the form of financial penalties. The Department has been working with Health and Personal Social Services employers to ensure that they do all they can to avoid being subject to penalties.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 21 June 2005

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Grand Committees

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Leader of the House how many times the *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* Welsh Grand Committees have met outside the Houses of Parliament in each of the last four years. [6130]

Mr. Hoon: Neither the Scottish Grand Committee nor the Welsh Grand Committee met outside the Houses of Parliament in any of the past four sessions. The Welsh Grand Committee met in Wales in March 2001.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Leader of the House for what reason the Northern Ireland Grand Committee has not met outside Westminster. [6131]

Mr. Hoon: There has never been cross-party agreement for the Northern Ireland Grand Committee to meet outside Westminster. Were agreement reached, the Government would be ready to consider facilitating one.

PRIME MINISTER

EU Presidency

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister which areas of reform will be given priority during the UK Presidency of the EU. [3951]

The Prime Minister: Like any EU presidency, the UK Government will take forward the work begun by its predecessors. This includes work on economic reform issues such as the better regulation agenda, the Services directive, and, EU/US economic co-operation. But this Government believes that the recent referenda in France and the Netherlands require a wider debate within the EU about how Europe can meet the challenges of globalisation.

On the external agenda, we shall take forward new commitments to: Africa; promote development and eradicate poverty worldwide; tackle climate change; and, aim to advance trade liberalisation and development through the WTO trade talks in December. We shall also take forward the EU's enlargement agenda.

Iraq

Mike Penning: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the level of looting of Iraqi heritage sites; and if he will raise the issue of the protection of these sites with *(a)* the Italian Prime Minister, *(b)* EU leaders and *(c)* G8 leaders when they next meet. [5316]

The Prime Minister: The Government takes very seriously the need to respect Iraq's cultural heritage. As United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 (June 2004) stressed, all parties need to respect and protect Iraq's archaeological, historical, cultural, and religious heritage. Our EU and G8 partners are aware of these requirements.

Race Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies or organisations within the responsibility of his Office comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3562]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Hutton) today, at column 925W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cleaning Contract

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what the annual value of the contract for cleaning the House has been in each year since the last contract was signed; and if he will make a statement. [6127]

Nick Harvey: I have been asked to reply.

The main cleaning contract for both Houses of Parliament is worth about £2.2 million per annum of which 60 per cent. (£1.32 million) falls to the House of Commons. The contract commenced in September 2003, and runs for five years.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what is the average hourly wage paid to cleaners in the House. [6128]

Nick Harvey: I have been asked to reply.

The in-house cleaning staff who clean sensitive areas are paid an average of £6.81 per hour. I understand that the main contract cleaners who clean common areas are paid a basic rate of £5.00 per hour.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on discussions between the House authorities and its cleaning contractors concerning the pay of cleaners in the House. [6129]

Nick Harvey: I have been asked to reply.

The House authorities have been working with the management of MITIE, the cleaning contractor, to identify economies in the cleaning contract that could help to fund an increase in pay for the cleaners. Both parties have identified some such economies.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Domestic Violence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Solicitor-General what Government policy is on prosecutions for domestic violence; and what guidelines have been issued to prosecutors on the subject. [5287]

The Solicitor-General: Stopping domestic violence and bringing perpetrators to justice is a priority for the CPS. In February 2005, it published its updated policy for prosecuting cases of domestic violence. The policy document explains the role of the Crown Prosecution Service and how prosecution decisions are made, and gives information on aspects of the legal process. It is available on the CPS website.

At the same time as the policy was published, the CPS issued revised detailed guidance to its prosecutors. The guidance reflects increased emphasis on the safety of victims and children, concentrates on effective evidence gathering to build strong cases and advises on proceeding where a victim is unwilling to give evidence.

Jury Trial (Fraud Cases)

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General on what basis and for what reasons the responsibility for the use of juries in long and complex trials has been transferred to the Law Officers. [6074]

The Solicitor-General: It has not. The use of juries in long and complex fraud trials is the responsibility of all three Criminal Justice System Ministers, who are being advised by the tri-lateral Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

BMG Consulting

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many questionnaires have been issued by BMG Consulting on behalf of his Department; and what the cost has been of this exercise. [5152]

Jim Fitzpatrick: BMG have sent 8,000 questionnaires to individuals across England as part of a national survey of public satisfaction with local government and its services that they are undertaking for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

BMG will be paid £36,000 plus VAT by ODPM for the national survey of public-satisfaction with local government and its services. This survey is currently in the field.

Brownfield Land

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Government's definition is of brownfield land. [5588]

Yvette Cooper: Annex C of Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 Housing sets out the Government's definition of previously developed land (sometimes referred to as 'brownfield land') for the purposes for planning for housing and the collection of data on previously developed land for the National Land Use Database.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes in England were in each council tax band in each year since the introduction of council tax. [5575]

Mr. Woolas: The number of homes in England in each council tax band in each year since 1993, when council tax was introduced, are shown in the following table.

	Bandings				
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
1993	5,284,107	3,858,482	4,396,579	2,932,446	1,819,144
1994	5,309,484	3,879,200	4,405,781	2,944,937	1,820,532
1995	5,398,565	3,948,879	4,433,716	2,982,332	1,824,657
1996	5,461,392	3,989,711	4,459,724	2,999,691	1,834,804
1997	5,504,595	4,047,006	4,507,297	3,038,774	1,850,901
1998	5,530,097	4,047,681	4,512,506	3,068,367	1,884,700
1999	5,552,151	4,072,047	4,537,592	3,100,040	1,911,654
2000	5,564,948	4,093,342	4,561,610	3,133,193	1,939,691
2001	5,565,678	4,110,707	4,585,591	3,166,043	1,967,709
2002	5,562,268	4,131,021	4,613,612	3,199,973	1,997,602
2003	5,560,649	4,154,820	4,646,607	3,236,482	2,025,205
2004	5,568,063	4,184,486	4,682,621	3,276,217	2,049,634
2005	5,570,435	4,219,680	4,724,332	3,316,033	2,072,680

	Bandings			
	F	*G*	*H*	*Total*
1993	981,203	745,840	119,687	20,137,488
1994	975,357	739,756	118,256	20,193,303
1995	954,887	703,154	109,403	20,355,593
1996	957,535	698,130	108,187	20,509,174
1997	965,796	697,949	106,080	20,718,398
1998	987,467	717,634	111,072	20,859,524
1999	1,003,248	728,011	113,032	21,017,775
2000	1,020,993	739,008	114,953	21,167,738
2001	1,037,560	749,520	116,463	21,299,271
2002	1,054,129	760,300	117,936	21,436,841
2003	1,070,596	769,553	119,403	21,583,315
2004	1,083,613	777,004	120,751	21,742,359
2005	1,095,689	782,711	122,056	21,903,616

Affordable Housing

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people in *(a)* the London borough of Haringey and *(b)* Hornsey and Wood Green constituency he estimates will be eligible for his Department's extended home ownership programme; and if he will make a statement. [4803]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently consulting on the details of our proposals for making our low cost home ownership schemes simpler and fairer, as set out in the consultation document 'HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own' (a copy of which is available in the Library of the House).

We will make our decisions in the light of responses to consultation and the recommendations from the Regional Housing Boards. Locations will also reflect the quality and value for money of bids received under the programme.

Fire Officers (Attacks)

Mr. Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many firemen have been hospitalised following assaults whilst on active duty in each of the last five years. [4886]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Attacks on firefighters have only been recorded since 1 April 2004. Since 1 April 2004 a total of six firefighters have been hospitalised due to an assault.

High Hedges

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will set a maximum level of fees to be levied by local authorities in respect of charges for applications under the high hedges provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. [4933]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 23 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 70WS.

Home Information Packs

Robert Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what date he expects to implement those parts of the Housing Act 2004 relating to home information packs; and if he will make a statement. [4856]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) intends to introduce home information packs throughout England and Wales as early as possible in 2007 and we are discussing with key stakeholders how this might best be achieved. The regulations required for the introduction of home information packs will be made at different times during 2005 and 2006, commencing with those prescribing the contents of the packs in September 2005. Details of the proposed contents have been published on the ODPM website at www.odpm.gov.uk

Home Inspectors (Diploma)

Robert Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many diploma courses for home inspectors are in operation; and how many people are training on them. [4855]

Yvette Cooper: The Awarding Body for the Built Environment (ABBE) has developed a Diploma in Home Inspection in consultation with the industry. The ABBE Diploma has been approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and comprises of a vocationally related qualification rather than a course. Over 1,000 such candidates are registered with assessment centres for the Diploma. ABBE has approved four assessment centres and a further three centres are currently seeking approval.

House Prices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average house price was in each Government office region in *(a)* 1991, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [5564]

Yvette Cooper: Data are not available for Government office regions on a consistent basis before 1993, and later for the north-west Government office region.

Mix-adjusted house price by Government office region

£

Government office region	*1993*	*2004*
North-east	51,569	121,260
North-west	n/a	133,647
Yorkshire and the Humber	55,325	131,279
East midlands	54,540	151,339
West midlands	60,032	154,758
East	67,463	197,187
London	83,109	257,266
South-east	77,798	227,726
South-west	61,714	191,426

Source:
Survey of Mortgage Lenders

Mix-adjusted average house prices from 1993 for Government office regions are published as Live Table 507 on the ODPM website at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_housing/documents/page/odpm_house_604092.xls.

Prior to 1993, simple average house price data are available for Standard Statistical Regions and are published as Live Table 512 on the ODPM website at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_housing/documents/page/odpm_house_604071.xls.

Local Authority Staff

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff were employed by each local authority per 1,000 population in the last year for which figures are available. [5258]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Park and Ride Schemes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what the location is of each park and ride scheme in operation in England; and on what date the construction of each was approved by the relevant government office for the region; [5583]

(2) what the location is of each proposed park and ride scheme that has been given approval by the relevant government office for the region. [5584]

Yvette Cooper: The Government do not collect information on the number or location of existing or proposed park and ride schemes. Government offices for the regions do not approve park and ride schemes. Their planning role is to act on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, on land use planning matters in the region.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance the Government have issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* government offices for the regions on park and ride schemes. [5585]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have issued planning policy guidance note (PPG) 13 Transport which gives national planning guidance on park and

ride. The Government have not issued separate guidance to either local authorities or government offices for the regions.

Planning (Polytunnels)

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to change planning requirements for polytunnels; and if he will make a statement. [5668]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 June 2005]*: Where polytunnels are placed temporarily on agricultural land and used for horticulture, they may be deemed to be a use of land for agriculture and therefore exempt from planning controls under the provisions of section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Where the erection of polytunnels for agricultural purposes is deemed to constitute 'development' under these provisions, 'permitted development rights' under part six of the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) 1995 may be available, subject to criteria set out in the Order. The Government currently have no proposals to change these statutory provisions.

Public Conveniences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether public conveniences run by local authorities are liable for business rates; and if he will make a statement. [5579]

Mr. Woolas: Non-domestic rates are payable on non-domestic property, including public conveniences. The rateable value of each non-domestic property represents its annual rental value at the set date of 1 April 2003.

John Hemming: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many public toilets were available in each *(a)* unitary and *(b)* district council area on 1 January (i) 2000, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003 and (iv) 2004. [4829]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 562–63W. I have deposited in the Library of the House a table that has been obtained from Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's analyses of commercial and industrial property data held by the Valuation Office Agency.

The table gives the number of public conveniences as at 1 October 2000 and 1 April for 2002, 2003 and 2004. No data prior to 2000 and for 2001 are currently available.

Referendums

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which Department is responsible for *(a)* mayoral referendums and *(b)* local referendums held under the Local Government Act 2003. [5572]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Constitutional Affairs is responsible for policy on the conduct of mayoral and local referendums. Policy and legislation about when such referendums can be held and for what purpose are the responsibility of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Social Housing Grant

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what representations he received before the abolition of the Local Authority Social Housing Grant; and from whom; [2560]

(2) what representations he received, and from whom, on extending the transitional arrangements put in place to oversee the abolition of the Local Authority Social Housing Grant. [2562]

Yvette Cooper: A summary of responses to the consultation 'The Way Forward for Housing Capital Finance' was placed in the Libraries of both Houses on 19 May 2004. The summary includes, among other things, details of consultees who responded to the suggestion about the future of Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) in that paper. In addition, representations were received prior to the abolition of LASHG from the right hon. and hon. Members for:

Barking
Bedford
Bristol East
Bromley and Chislehurst
Bury St. Edmunds
Cheltenham
Chester City
Coventry South
Dagenham
Dewsbury
East Surrey
Forest of Dean
Great Grimsby
Henley
Ipswich
Knowsley North and Sefton East
Lichfield
Mid Bedfordshire
Regents Park and Kensington North
Reigate
Runnymede and Weybridge
Saffron Walden
South Cambridgeshire
Spelthorne
Staffordshire Moorlands
Stratford-on-Avon
Tonbridge and Malling
Wealden
Welwyn Hatfield
Witney
Worthing West
Yeovil

and

Baroness Maddock;
Mark Watts MEP;

and the following organisations, some of whom made representations through right hon. and hon. Members:

Apex Group
Aquarius Housing Consultancy
Association of London Government
Babergh District Council
Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Bedford Borough Council
Breckland District Council
Bromley London Borough Council
Bromsgrove District Council
Cheltenham Borough Council
Cambridge City Council
Chester City Council
Chester Housing Partnership
Christchurch Borough Council
Corporation of London Council
Daventry District Council
East of England Regional Housing Forum
East Hampshire District Council
East Lindsey District Council
Eden District Council
Fareham Borough Council
Field Lane Foundation
Forest of Dean District Council
Fylde Borough Council
Guildford Borough Council
Havant Borough Council
Havebury Housing Partnership
Hyde Housing Association Group
Ipswich Borough Council
Lichfield City Council
Linx Housing Association
Local Government Association
Maidstone Borough Council
Malvern Hills District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
Moat Housing Group
Moorlands Housing Association
National Housing Federation
Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council
North Cornwall District Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Hertfordshire District Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Orwell Housing Association
Penwith District Council
Reading Borough Council
Redditch Borough Council
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Restormel Borough Council
Royal Borough of Kensington And Chelsea
Runnymede Borough Council
Rural Housing Trust
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Slough Borough Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Norfolk District Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
South Shropshire District Council
South Somerset District Council
Spelthorne Borough Council
Spelthorne Housing Association
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Suffolk Housing Society
Surrey Community Development Trust
Sutton London Borough Council
Swale Borough Council
Swanbridge Housing Association
Swindon Borough Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Thames Valley Housing Association
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Tynedale District Council
Uttlesford District Council
Waverley Borough Council
Wealden District Council
Welwyn Hatfield District Council
West Devon Homes
West Dorset District Council
West Kent Housing Association
Westminster City Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Wychavon District Council

My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister subsequently received representations about transitional arrangements following the abolition of Local Authority Social Housing Grant from the right hon. and hon. Members for:

Barking
Chelmsford West
Dagenham
Ipswich
Kingston and Surbiton
Maldon and Chelmsford East
Mid Norfolk
Mid Worcestershire
North East Bedfordshire
Rayleigh
St. Albans
Stalybridge and Hyde
Sunderland South
South West Norfolk
West Suffolk
West Worcestershire

and the following organisations, some of whom made representations through right hon. and hon. Members:

Ashton Pioneer Homes
Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Bedford Borough Council
Breckland District Council
Canterbury City Council

Cardinal Hume Centre
Chelmsford Borough Council
East Lindsey District Council
Elmbridge Borough Council
Hertfordshire Housing Forum
Ipswich Borough Council
Kennet District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames
Runnymede Borough Council
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
South Hams District Council
South Somerset District Council
Suffolk County Council
Sunderland City Metropolitan Borough Council
Surrey Community Development Trust
Surrey Local Government Association
Tandridge District Council
Tewkesbury MCTi Partnership
Tewkesbury Borough Council
Tower Hamlets London Borough Council
Waverley Borough Council
Westminster City Council
West Wiltshire District Council
Woodstock Town Council
Wychavon District Council

Surplus Land

Tim Loughton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress has been made with the sale and development of the surplus land on the Southlands hospital site in Shoreham, West Sussex. [4629]

Yvette Cooper: Following the announcement by my right hon. Friends the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Health last year, the first tranche of 67 surplus hospital sites transferred from Department of Health to English Partnerships on 6 April 2005. Other surplus sites, including the Southlands hospital site in Shoreham, will transfer to English Partnerships in 2005–06 and 2006–07. The land will be used to help deliver growth and regeneration including the provision of more affordable homes. English Partnerships is now working up future plans for the sites in discussion with local planning authorities.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which of those surplus NHS sites transferred to his Department *(a)* have been sold for development, *(b)* have secured planning permission for development and *(c)* are to be developed by his Department. [4647]

Yvette Cooper: The first tranche of 67 surplus hospital sites, out of a total portfolio of 96, transferred from the Department of Health to English Partnerships on 6 April 2005. All of the sites will be assessed by English Partnerships for their development potential. Appropriate plans will then be drawn up in consultation with local planning authorities. No sites have yet been sold by English Partnerships for development. A number of sites in the portfolio have existing planning consents. It is likely that all sites will be taken forward by or in partnership with the private sector.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of houses to be built on surplus NHS sites transferred to his Department will be affordable homes. [4648]

Yvette Cooper: The first tranche of 67 surplus hospital sites transferred from the Department of Health to English Partnerships on 6 April 2005. Other surplus sites will transfer to English Partnerships. Residential housing development, including the provision for a mix of tenures, will take place where sites are assessed as suitable. Such decisions will be made on a site by site basis taking account of local development plans and local needs. It is estimated that the total portfolio of 96 sites transferring to English Partnerships has the potential to deliver about 15,000 new homes, at least 5,000 of them affordable.

Sustainable Communities Plan

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how the Sustainable Communities Plan will amend green belt designation in each of the growth areas. [4283]

Yvette Cooper: Any proposals to change the general extent of green belt boundaries in the growth areas should be considered as part of a review of the regional spatial strategy or the London plan in the first instance, through the statutory development plan process. Government policy set out in the Sustainable Communities Plan is that every region should maintain or increase the area of green belt designated in local plans.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Transport (Emissions)

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* Kyoto basket emissions are estimated to have come from air transport flights taking off from and landing in UK airports in 2003. [694]

Margaret Beckett *[pursuant to the reply, 26 May 2005, Official Report, c.179W]:* The original answer mixed units of million tonnes carbon equivalent per year (MtCeq/yr) and million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent per year ($MtCO_2$ eq/yr). This resulted in an incorrect percentage to be calculated for the Kyoto basket emissions. All units are now presented as $MtCO_2$ eq/yr. A revised table is given as follows.

	(a) CO_2	*(b)* GHG
Emissions from domestic aviation million tonnes of carbon equivalent ($MtCO_2$ eq/yr)	2.11	2.14
Total UK emissions inventory ($MtCO_2$ eq/yr)	572.2	665.8
UK domestic aviation as a proportion of total emissions (%)	0.37	0.32

The original answer also contained an error in the units in the final sentence of text. The text referred to MtCeq/yr, this should have been presented as $MtCO_2$ eq/yr. The rest of the answer remains correct.

Bovine TB

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that badgers killed in road accidents in North Yorkshire are tested to see whether they are free of tuberculosis. [4868]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Road Traffic Accident (RTA) survey is limited to seven counties in England (Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Dorset). We are awaiting the results of the validation of the survey before taking any decisions about extending the survey area further. There are also logistical and budgetary problems in extending the RTA survey.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to allow *(a)* land owners and *(b)* land occupiers to test badger setts humanely to ensure they are tuberculosis free. [4870]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is currently no reliable diagnostic test for TB in live badgers. We are funding research into the development of a number of alternative immunological assays for the detection of *M. bovis* infection in badgers at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. Further evaluation is being undertaken and results should be available by the end of 2005.

Post-mortem inspection and laboratory culture of *M. bovis* remains the most sensitive method of diagnosis.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that areas, with particular reference to North Yorkshire, remain tuberculosis free in their cattle population. [4871]

Mr. Bradshaw: We announced new measures last November to tighten surveillance and reduce risk of TB spreading to new areas. These include changes to testing frequency and the imposition of movement restrictions immediately a test becomes overdue from February 2005.

The "Government Strategic Framework for the Sustainable Control of Bovine Tuberculosis in Great Britain" was published on 1 March. Specific disease control policies will be tailored to reflect the regional variation in disease and risk, and adjusted to make best use of emerging scientific findings.

In addition, we are also considering a proposal for pre-movement testing in Great Britain, developed by a farmer-chaired stakeholder group. The group delivered its report on 29 April, and published on DEFRA website on 1 June. The group's recommendations will be carefully considered.

Great Britain's pre-movement testing policy would need agreement from the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly. We aim to consult later this year on the detailed proposal.

Apiculture

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the impact of the small hive beetle on the UK's bee population; and if she will make a statement. [4806]

Jim Knight: The small hive beetle is a notifiable pest of bees. It is indigenous to Africa and widespread in the USA. EU import controls have been extended to reduce the risk of its introduction. The beetle has not yet been reported within the Community beyond a single finding in a consignment of bees imported into Portugal last October.

The National Bee Unit's assessment of this pest is that if it became established it could have a serious impact on the sustainability and economic prosperity of UK and European apiculture. Accordingly, the unit has been providing advice to beekeepers to raise awareness, and has increased its surveillance programme to monitor for its presence. We are also developing contingency measures to deal with any future finding of the pest in England.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the National Bee Unit health programme; and if she will make a statement. [4807]

Jim Knight: The Department has received many written representations from beekeepers in recent months about our proposals to reduce expenditure with the National Bee Unit from 2008. Defra officials are maintaining a regular dialogue with representatives of the national beekeeping associations in England and have met them on three occasions so far this year to discuss their concerns and the possible impact of our proposals on future bee disease prevention and control.

Climate Change (Insect Population)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the insect population in England; and what the predicted numbers are in the event of a (i) one per cent., (ii) two per cent. and (iii) three per cent. increase in current average temperatures due to climate change. [4447]

Mr. Morley: I am not aware of an estimate of the insect population in England.

Scenarios of climate change published by the UK Climate Impacts Programme indicate that in future, the UK is likely to experience warmer, wetter winters, and hotter, probably drier, summers, with extreme high temperatures and rainfall events likely to occur more often. A collaborative research project led by English Nature ("Modelling Natural Resource Responses to Climate Change"—Monarch) used these climate change scenarios to investigate impacts on the UK's flora and fauna.

While there is no assessment of total numbers, the project notes that as the climate warms, those insect species suited to warmer conditions will spread north. Those species suited to cooler conditions may become extinct in Britain. It is unlikely that insects will become more abundant overall under possible climate change scenarios. Some species may increase in number, while others will decline, according to their temperature and humidity preferences and changes in their habitats.

Non-climate factors (such as changes in land-use, and in the populations of insect predators) will also have a significant influence on insect populations in future.

Animal Diseases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will set up a national surveillance agency to give early warning of suspected animal diseases and to monitor the spread of those diseases using satellite intelligence. [5042]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government recognise the importance of disease surveillance to allow early identification of new and emerging diseases. To this effect a strategy for enhancing veterinary surveillance in the UK was launched by the Department in October 2003 and is being implemented in partnership with a wide range of interested parties.

Surveillance work is currently carried out on a national basis by two Defra agencies, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the State Veterinary Service, with additional surveillance widely commissioned elsewhere according to need. The Department also collects and monitors worldwide information on animal disease. Disease surveillance reports are published at regular intervals in the Veterinary Record . Given this existing activity, it is not planned to set up a further agency.

The Government are funding the development of a unique surveillance information management system, RADAR (rapid analysis and detection of animal-related risks). RADAR incorporates the use of geographical information systems which are capable of analysing data captured by a variety of sources, including satellites. Comprehensive information about surveillance activities and RADAR is available at http://defraweb/animalh/diseases/vetsurveillance/index.htm.

Nuclear Waste

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the sites where nuclear waste is kept. [4880]

Mr. Morley: The following is a list of sites that currently store varying quantities of radioactive waste:

Aldermaston
Amersham
Berkeley
Bradwell
Capenhurst
Cardiff
Chapelcross
Clyde
Culham
Devonport
Donnington
Dounreay
Drigg
Dungeness
Eskmeals
Fort Halstead
Heysham
Hinkley Point
Hartlepool
Harwell
Hunterston
Oldbury
Portsmouth
Rosyth
Sellafield/Calder Hall
Sizewell
Springfields
Stafford
Torness
Trawsfynydd
Vulcan
Windscale
Winfrith
Wylfa

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the Government's plan for the long-term storage of nuclear waste. [4881]

Mr. Morley: The UK Government and devolved administrations set up the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) in 2003, under the "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely" programme. Its task is to provide a recommendation on the option, or combination of options, for the long-term management of the UK's higher level radioactive waste.

CoRWM launched the second phase of its Public and Stakeholder Engagement consultation programme in April 2005. The committee have evaluated 15 options and is now consulting on its proposal to carry out further assessments on a shortlist of four:

Deep geological disposal
Phased deep geological disposal
Near-surface disposal of short-lived waste
Long-term interim storage

CoRWM will finalise its shortlist of options for assessment, in light of its consultations, by July 2005. It is due to provide its recommendations to Ministers, for their consideration, in July 2006.

Patio Heaters

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* greenhouse gas emissions created by outdoor patio heaters in (i) the most recent year for which information is available and (ii) each of the next five years. [4450]

Mr. Morley: Only very limited information is currently available about the number of outdoor patio heaters in use in the UK.

Using this information the Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) has made a preliminary estimate of the number of these appliances in use in the UK—estimating that there are 630,000 in use in the domestic sector and between 26,000 and 105,000 in the hospitality sector (pubs, restaurants and hotels).

Making reasonable assumptions about fuel, power rating, and level of usage, MTP estimates annual energy consumption to be approximately 670 GWh in the domestic sector and between 280 and 1100 GWh in the hospitality sector. The corresponding annual carbon dioxide emissions are 140,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the domestic sector and between 60,000 and 240,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the in the hospitality sector.

No information is available about projected carbon dioxide emission from outdoor patio heaters over the next five years.

No information on other greenhouse gas emissions from outdoor patio heaters is available.

Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many primates have been imported for the purpose of *(a)* laboratory experimentation and *(b)* sale as pets in each of the last five years. [5227]

Jim Knight: Under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the international movement of certain species (including all primates) is regulated by the issue of export and or import permits. The permits specify the purpose for which the animals are being moved.

The number of primates for which import permits were issued for biomedical research or scientific purposes are detailed in the following table.

	Number
2000	1,752
2001	2,012
2002	2,226
2003	1,861
2004	1,970

No permits were issued to import primates for sale as pets.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to ban the *(a)* importation and *(b)* sale of primates for commercial purposes. [5229]

Jim Knight: It is our view that primates are not suitable for the general pet trade and imports are therefore already limited to zoos, scientific institutions, or specialised private keepers. Commercial trade in the more endangered primate species is also prohibited.

Earlier this month I announced the Government's intention to go out to public consultation regarding the use of powers under Article 8.2 of Council Regulation 338/97 by the end of July. This is essentially a conservation measure but we shall certainly consider whether it would be appropriate to use these powers to restrict the keeping of primates as pets.

Veterinary Medicines

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received about the new dispensing regulation proposed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. [3112]

Margaret Beckett: The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is developing new Regulations setting out controls on all aspects of veterinary medicines. These will take forward relevant recommendations made in the Marsh and Competition Commission reports on the dispensing of veterinary prescription only medicines (POMs) in the UK, implement an amending EU Directive and replace the existing voluminous and outdated UK legislation on veterinary medicines with a single set of Regulations.

The new Regulations contain a number of provisions that relate to the supply and dispensing of veterinary medicines, including proposed new distribution categories. We have received correspondence about issues relating to some of these and other provisions from a number of individuals including veterinary surgeons and animal owners/keepers.

During the initial stages of developing the proposals, officials at the VMD consulted informally with a wide range of interest groups. Following further development, a formal consultation package was published on the VMD website on 4 January 2005 and a letter sent to some 350 interested organisations and individuals. Consultees were allowed four months, until 5 May, to comment. Over 300 responses have been received and the comments are currently being considered and will be taken into account in finalising the draft Regulations. The VMD has kept interested parties informed of developments on key issues by publishing a series of reaction notes and has arranged public meetings on 21 and 22 June to discuss the outcome of the formal consultation. The consultation package remains available on the VMD website www.vmd.gov.uk under "Consultations" "Previous".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Magistracy

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of cases set down for committal by magistrates in the Greater London area has not been ready for committal on the due date. [2701]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the effectiveness of committal hearings in the magistrates courts is not held centrally and could be produced only at disproportion cost. However, figures provided by the Crown Prosecution Service suggest that 1,133 committals were discharged during the period but comprehensive reasons for these are not recorded.

Public Order Act

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have occurred under sections *(a)* 18, *(b)* 19, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 21 and *(e)* 23 of the Public Order Act 1986 in each year since 2000; and how many convictions resulted, broken down by subsection under which each occurred. [4987]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The following table show the number of defendants prosecuted for an offence or offences contrary to sections 18–21 and 23 of the Public Order Act 1986 for the period 2000–04. The relevant statistics are recorded by reference to the year in which cases were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by the police. There is no table provided for 2005 as no prosecutions have resulted, to date, from cases referred to the CPS by the police in 2005. It is not possible to specify the subsections concerned in each case as this information is not held centrally.

Section	*Defendants convicted*	*Defendants prosecuted*
2000		
18	0	0
19	4	2
20	0	0
21	0	0
23	2	1
Both 19 and 23	2	1 to date (other case ongoing)
2001		
18	0	0
19	1	0
20	0	0
21	0	0
23	0	0
Both 19 and 23	1	1 (only convicted of s 23)
2002		
18	0	0
19	0	0
20	0	0
21	0	0
23	0	0
19, 21 and 23	1	1
2003		
18	0	0
19	5	All 5 ongoing
20	0	0
21	0	0
23	0	0
Both 18 and 23	1	Ongoing
Both 19 and 23	1	Ongoing
19, 21 and 23	1	Ongoing
2004		
18	3	All 3 ongoing
19	2	Both ongoing
20	0	0
21	0	0
23	0	0

Student Visas

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the new charge for renewal of visas on the number of overseas students attending university in the UK. [4814]

Mr. McNulty: In September 2004 my right hon. Friend the former Minister of State for Immigration and Nationality (Des Browne) commissioned a joint project team to undertake an assessment of the likely impact of increased leave to remain fees to attract more international students to the UK. The team comprised representatives from the Department for Education and Skills, the Home Office and the British Council. The outcomes of this work are available, alongside a Regulatory Impact Assessment for the education sector on the Home Office website. Des Browne's statement of 7 February commissioned a new Joint Education Task Force, including representatives from the education sector and other key stakeholders, to further develop this work.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Libraries

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authority-run libraries there have been in each London borough since 1997. [6416]

Mr. Lammy: The table shows the aggregated number of public libraries, including mobile libraries, across inner and outer London for the period 1997–98 to 2003–04. This information is drawn from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Public Library Statistics Actuals. The CIPFA statistics show figures for individual library authorities. Copies are held in the House Library.

	Number of London libraries
1997–98	406
1998–99	495
1999–2000	402
2000–01	397
2001–02	397

	Number of London libraries
2002–03	392
2003–04	395

Note:
The table includes the libraries in the London borough of Hounslow which are run for the authority by a not for profit trust.

Licensing Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the outcomes of the first High Level Ministers/Senior Official Group on the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [5925]

James Purnell: The High Level Ministers/Senior Officials Group is one of the mechanisms put in place to monitor and evaluate implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. The minutes of the first meeting of 22 March are included on my Department's website at www.culture.gov.uk, under alcohol and entertainment. The key outcomes of that meeting were agreements on:

The terms of reference, to be reviewed in early 2006;

The conduct of future meetings, including the regularity of meetings, and the need for a basic position report to be tabled for each meeting during transition;

Various specific issues arising from the implementation of the 2003 Act.

Two other meetings have since been held—on 4 and 23 May. The minutes to the second meeting are now available on our web site as will be the minutes to subsequent meetings.

Memorial to Women

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had regarding the siting of the memorial to the women of the second world war in Whitehall. [6038]

Mr. Lammy: Discussions were held with the patrons and trustees of the Memorial to the Women of World War II Fund and their technical advisers, the Royal Household, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Office of Government Commerce, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the City of Westminster, and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

National Lottery

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is her policy that the heritage sector will continue to benefit from the National Lottery after 2009. [5924]

Mr. Lammy: The heritage good cause will continue. A decision on the shares for arts, heritage and sport good causes after 2009 will be made in June 2006, following public consultation on what is worth funding within these good causes.

Ofcom

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what guidelines Ofcom work to when deciding whether to investigate complaints made against television programmes; and if she will make a statement; [6176]

(2) how many complaints were received by Ofcom concerning the programme, "Jerry Springer The Opera"; what investigations took place into the programme; and if she will make a statement. [6177]

James Purnell: The matters raised are the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Queen Mother Memorial

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* other Government Departments, *(b)* heritage organisations and *(c)* the London Assembly about the proposed memorial to the late Queen Mother. [6055]

Mr. Lammy: Discussions have been held with HM Treasury, The Royal Household and The Royal Parks about the proposed memorial.

Television Licence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many TV licence inspectors there were in London in each year since 1997. [5260]

James Purnell: The BBC has statutory responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and TV Licensing carries out the day to day administration under contract to the Corporation. I have therefore asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to her direct, placing a copy of the reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

Trooping the Colour

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the Government have allocated for Trooping the Colour in each year since 1996. [5409]

Mr. Lammy: The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour) is part of the core activities of the Ministry of Defence, and no extra funding is allocated. The only expenditure the Government allocate for Trooping the Colour is for flag flying and preparing and sanding all roads and gun salute areas and preparing the parade ground and clearing up after the event. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for flying the Union flags down the Mall and the Commonwealth flags along Horseguards Road; the Royal Parks are responsible for preparing the Royal Parks for the event. The following table shows the total amount of funding allocated by the Government from 1996.

Financial year	Amount of Government funding (£)
1996–97	[1]7,483
1997–98	[1]11,361
1998–99	83,094
1999–2000	88,968
2000–01	87,023
2001–02	117,446

Financial year	Amount of Government funding (£)
2002–03	144,033
2003–04	139,555
2004–05	[2]77,214
2005–06	[3]105,148

[1] As other figures are unavailable
[2] Provisional
[3] Proposed expenditure

Village Hall Committees

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what evidence she has collated of village hall committees carrying on a business without an appropriate licence. [5908]

James Purnell *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Evidence of this sort is not collated centrally. It is for the appropriate enforcement authorities, such as the police and licensing authorities, to consider matters of this sort.

DEFENCE

Armoured Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the assessment phase of the Future Rapid Effects System undertaken by Atkins will have to comply with the objectives and criteria of the European Defence Agency. [5379]

Mr. Ingram: The FRES Assessment Phase is not required to comply with any European Defence Agency (EDA) objectives or criteria. However, the United Kingdom supports the EDA in its work to ascertain the potential for co-operation/collaboration in the future procurement of Armoured Fighting Vehicles. The FRES Assessment Phase will take account of information from a number of sources, one of which will be the EDA, albeit the work of the EDA is still at an early stage.

Executive Agency Costs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecasted estimated annual running costs were of the *(a)* Medical Supplies Agency and *(b)* Warship Supply Agency if it had operated as a stand-alone agency. [3960]

Mr. Ingram: The estimated annual running costs for the Medical Supplies Agency (not including Stock Consumption of £40.5 million) for financial year 2004–05 are £28.5million. This is extracted from MSA Annual Accounts, which are in the process of being audited by the National Audit Office and therefore, may be subject to change.

Had the MSA continued operating as an Agency the estimated running costs (again not including Stock Consumption) for FY 2005–06 are £21.5 million.

The Warship Support Agency's net operating costs for 2004–05 were some £2,664 million. This is also taken from the Agency's Annual Accounts, which are being audited by the National Audit Office and therefore may be subject to change.

Had the WSA continued operating as an Agency the estimated running costs for FY 2005–06 are £2,623 million.

Fylingdales

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision is made in the contract between his Department and the US authorities for the continuing use of Fylingdales. [6135]

Mr. Ingram: The operation and maintenance of RAF Fylingdales is governed by an Exchange of Notes, under which the US provides the specialist equipment there while the UK operates and maintains the Station. The data produced by the radar at RAF Fylingdales are shared between the UK and the US under the terms of a UK-US Combined Operating Agreement.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* class and role, *(b)* date of entry into service, *(c)* expected date of removal from service, *(d)* average annual cost of maintenance over the period of service and *(e)* cost of building is of each ship proposed by the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme; and if he will make a statement. [6170]

Mr. Ingram: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme is currently in the Concept Phase and no decisions have yet been made on the class and role, timing or costs of the programme. These matters will be addressed during the Assessment Phase, which is planned to commence shortly.

Potton Island

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the former defence base at Potton Island, near Southend, is used for; whether consideration has been given to its release for a non-military purpose; what assessment has been made of impediments to a non-military use arising from his Department's use of the land; and if he will make a statement. [5007]

Mr. Touhig: Potton Island continues to be part of the group of islands that make up the Test and Evaluation Ranges at Shoeburyness and is used as part of the safety zone for the testing that takes place at the Ranges. A significant area of Potton Island is, however, leased for farming. Potton Island has been included in the Land Quality Assessment that is being carried out on the whole of Shoeburyness. Once the information from this assessment is available the future of the site will be reviewed.

Typhoon Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will re-examine the case for operating Typhoon aircraft from the new aircraft carriers. [5761]

Mr. Ingram: As I have previously indicated, we have no current plans for Typhoon to operate from our future aircraft carriers.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad Scheme

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for the Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad scheme; and if he will make a statement. [6158]

Ian Pearson: UK Trade and Investment will continue to run a substantial event programme to assist small and medium sized enterprises to enter overseas markets. Assistance will be given to those who stand to benefit most, namely new-to-export companies. The purpose of this support will be to enable such companies to acquire market knowledge and international experience as part of a strategic approach to exporting. The implementation details for the scheme in 2006–07 will be finalised after discussions with stakeholders during the summer.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many companies based in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the rest of the UK have received assistance under the Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad Scheme in each year since 1997; what the average payment was in each case in each year; what assessment he has made of the impact of the scheme on exporters; and if he will make a statement. [1182]

Ian Pearson: Companies receiving grants from the Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad scheme (and its predecessor, the Trade Fair Support Scheme, in 1997–98 and 1998–99):

	Scotland	*Rest of UK*
1997–98	294	4,117
1998–99	353	4,915
1999–2000	325	4,888
2000–01	366	5,414
2001–02	336	5,106
2002–03	396	5,523
2003–04	374	5,214
2004–05	423	5,843

The average grant payment during this period cannot be calculated but the average for 2004–05 is approximately £1,900.

UK Trade and Investment will continue to run a substantial programme to assist small and medium sized enterprises to enter overseas markets through an events-based scheme. Assistance will be given to those who stand to benefit the most, namely new-to-export companies. The purpose of support is to enable such companies to acquire market knowledge and experience as part of a strategic approach to exporting.

Internet Access

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the estimated number of people per 1,000 population is that *(a)* own a home computer, *(b)* have access to the internet via normal telephone line and *(c)* have access to the internet via broadband in each London borough. [5148]

Alun Michael: The information is as follows:

(a) In the latest Consumer Durables survey by ONS in 2002–03, 54 per cent. of households owned a home computer. This information is not available at a London borough level.

(b) and *(c)* The following table shows the percentage of households that have a dial-up internet connection or a broadband connection for each of the London boroughs.

London borough	*Percentage of households with a dial-up internet connection*	*Percentage of households with a broadband internet connection*
Barking and Dagenham	31.8	21.1
Barnet	38.0	26.6
Bexley	35.5	23.6
Brent	34.9	26.3
Bromley	37.3	25.3
Camden	39.9	26.5
City of London	43.9	31.8
Croydon	38.2	25.0
Ealing	36.7	27.3
Enfield	35.9	24.1
Greenwich	35.0	23.2
Hackney	36.0	23.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	37.5	29.3
Haringey	38.1	25.3
Harrow	37.0	26.4
Havering	35.8	21.8
Hillingdon	36.8	24.7
Hounslow	38.0	25.3
Islington	38.1	25.3
Kensington and Chelsea	39.8	28.8
Kingston upon Thames	40.1	26.5
Lambeth	37.6	27.4
Lewisham	36.7	25.1
Merton	39.5	26.5
Newham	33.2	22.9
Redbridge	37.0	24.5
Richmond on Thames	42.1	28.3
Southwark	35.7	25.8
Sutton	38.1	25.3
Tower Hamlets	34.0	26.5
Waltham Forest	36.3	24.1
Wandsworth	38.7	30.8
Westminster	40.2	26.8

Source:
Point Topic

Export Control and Non-proliferation Directorate

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimated cost savings were cited by ASE Consulting in the report which considered privatising the Export Control and Non-proliferation Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [6157]

Malcolm Wicks: The report focused on whether outsourcing as a means of service delivery was compatible with the executive functions of the Export Control Organisation and as such did not set out a detailed business case containing cost savings.

MG Rover

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which parties other than the MG Rover management team and his Department were informed that MG Rover had entered administration before the Secretary of State declared the insolvency on national television on Thursday 7 April; and if he will make a statement. [5863]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Tony Woodley (TGWU) and Derek Simpson (Amicus), were present when my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was informed of the Directors decision to call in administrators and make a statement. Representatives of No. 10 and HM Treasury were also present.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether any of the conditions applied to the bridging loan offered by the Government to the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation in relation to MG Rover were changed by the Government during the week commencing Monday 4 April; and if he will make a statement. [5864]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* I can confirm the criteria against which the DTI considered the offer of a bridging loan to MG Rover were not changed in the week commencing Monday 4 April.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the reasons why the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation decided not to pursue the deal to secure MG Rover. [5865]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* That is a question for SAIC. However, as my right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State noted in her statement on 7 April, SAIC made it clear that they were not confident about the future solvency of MG Rover, and that bridging loan finance would not have solved their concerns.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the length of the repayment period was on the £100 million bridging finance offered by the Government in advance of MG Rover entering administration; and whether the length of this repayment period was changed after it was offered. [5866]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The terms of the proposed loan required repayment by 31 May 2005. This requirement was not changed. No negotiations on the term of repayment took place as it became clear that the deal was not going ahead.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish the terms of reference for the investigation into the affairs of the MG Rover Group. [5923]

Ian Pearson: The inspectors have been asked to examine issues raised by the Financial Reporting Review Panel in their report to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the events leading up to the appointment of administrators on 8 April 2005.

Pay Phones

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will discuss with British Telecom its proposal to remove the last remaining pay phone in the village of Longdon in Worcestershire. [6077]

Alun Michael: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, DTI officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Miners' Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been paid in costs to Raleys Solicitors since the inception of the vibration white finger and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease compensation scheme. [6120]

Malcolm Wicks: The total costs paid to Raleys solicitors are as follows:

Total solicitors costs paid[1]

	£ million
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	38.8
Vibration white finger	7.3

[1] Solicitor's costs include VAT on solicitor's profit costs and disbursements, but exclude generic costs (which are paid to those solicitors involved in the initial litigation and in co-ordinating the claims handling framework).

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many cases have received *(a)* interim settlements and *(b)* full and final settlements under the Vendside and Union of Democratic Mineworkers' chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger schemes. [6121]

Malcolm Wicks: The numbers of payments and settlements under the Vendside and Union of Democratic Mineworkers' schemes are as follows:

Policy	*Interim payments*[1]	*Settled by payment*	*Settled by denial/ withdrawal*	*Total settled*
COPD	2,852	15,351	1,743	17,094
VWF	11,140	14,465	5,300	19,765
Total	13,992	29,816	7,043	36,859

[1] Interim payments reflects the "number of claimants" who have received an interim payment, rather than the number of payments made (some cases receive more than one interim).

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been paid in costs under the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and Vendside scheme for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger in each year since 1999. [6123]

Malcolm Wicks: The total costs paid by year under the Union of Democratic Mineworkers/ Vendside schemes are as follows:

£ million

	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease[1]	*Vibration white finger*
1999	—	0.7
2000	0.1	0.9
2001	1.1	2.8
2002	3.8	2.0
2003	11.1	2.9
2004	9.2	1.7
2005	4.1	0.7
Total	29.4	11.6

[1] Solicitor's costs include VAT on solicitor's profit costs and disbursements, but exclude generic costs (which are paid to those solicitors involved in the initial litigation and in coordinating the claims handling framework).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cyprus

5. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the UN on new talks on Cyprus. [5699]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There have been no recent discussions with the UN at ministerial level about new talks on Cyprus.

We look forward, however, to hearing Sir Kieran Prendergast's ideas about the possibility of future talks when he reports to the UN Security Council following his fact-finding mission to the region.

Non-proliferation Treaty

13. **Mr. Maples:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of the non-proliferation treaty review conference. [5707]

Dr. Howells: The UK's objective for the NPT review conference was to achieve a substantive outcome that strengthened the treaty. Regrettably, failure by states parties to agree an agenda meant there was not enough time to negotiate a substantive final document. Even so, the conference was able to discuss practical ways to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. We will take forward these ideas wherever we can over the coming months.

African Union

14. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the support provided by international organisations for the African Union in Darfur. [5708]

Ian Pearson: NATO, the EU and the UN are working closely together to provide co-ordinated and complementary assistance to the African Union mission in Darfur. We continue to play a leading role in supporting the African Union mission, and are in close contact with all three organisations on this issue.

Middle East

16. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on the Middle East Roadmap to peace. [5710]

Dr. Howells: There have been some encouraging signs, including increased contact between the parties and a substantial reduction of violence. The situation is fragile, but we will work with the parties and international partners to maintain the momentum of progress. We will continue to work towards progress on the Roadmap.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress on Israeli disengagement from Gaza. [5709]

Dr. Howells: Israeli disengagement from Gaza and part of the West Bank is due to start in mid-August. Disengagement is an important step. Withdrawal should be as full as possible and co-ordinated with the Palestinians. And we encourage the Palestinian Authority to make the most of this opportunity. We welcome the work of James Wolfensohn as the Quartet's representative on disengagement.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Government policy on the Middle East peace process. [5712]

Dr. Howells: The UK remains committed to progress on the Roadmap. We welcome disengagement as an important first step. We are working with the parties and the international community in order to maximise the benefits of disengagement and keep up the momentum of recent progress. In doing so we support the work of US security co-ordinator General Ward and the Quartet's disengagement representative James Wolfensohn.

Hamas

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W, on Hamas, on what date *(a)* officials and *(b)* representatives in the region advised him to authorise contacts with members of Hamas. [6214]

Dr. Howells: Circumstances in the occupied territories changed last December when members of Hamas, who had previously boycotted the democratic process, participated in, and were elected in, local elections. Discussions with officials and representatives in the region since this time led to the authorisation of some low-level contacts with elected representatives. No further meetings are currently planned.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W, on Hamas, on what dates he has held discussions with *(a)* Israel and *(b)* the Palestinian authority concerning meetings between his officials and members of Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [6215]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed these contacts with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on 7 June and Abu Mazen on 8 June.

Iraq

17. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Iraqi authorities on the proposed new constitution for Iraq. [5711]

Dr. Howells: The Secretary of State discussed Iraq's constitutional process with the members of the Iraqi Government, the National Assembly, and other political groups when he accompanied the EU Troika to Baghdad on 9 June.

I had discussions yesterday with representatives from the Iraqi Islamic Party on the constitution process and they told me that they will be examining the question of choosing 15 additional Sunni members to be added to the Constitutional Committee (that is drafting the new constitution) and the 10 Sunni advisors to that Committee.

Turkey (EU Accession)

19. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress towards Turkey's accession to the European Union. [5713]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The EU agreed at the European Council in December 2004 to open accession negotiations with Turkey on 3 October 2005 provided that Turkey brought into force six pieces of outstanding legislation and signed the Protocol extending the Ankara Agreement to the 10 new member states.

All six pieces of legislation are now in force, and we expect the Protocol to be signed soon. The European Council on Friday unanimously adopted conclusions which

> "referred to its conclusions of December 2004 on enlargement and highlighted the need to implement them fully".

The position is therefore clear. Provided it meets the conditions, accession negotiations with Turkey should open on 3 October.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the Netherlands and France voting against the EU Constitution on the prospect for the accession of Turkey to the EU. [5695]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The European Council unanimously adopted conclusions on 17 June which

> "referred to its conclusions of June and December 2004 on enlargement and highlighted the need to implement them fully."

The December 2004 European Council agreed to open accession negotiations with Turkey on 3 October 2005 provided that Turkey brought into force six pieces of outstanding legislation and signed the Protocol extending the Ankara Agreement to the 10 new member states. The position is therefore clear. Provided it meets the conditions, accession negotiations with Turkey should open on 3 October.

North Korea

21. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK relations with North Korea. [5715]

Ian Pearson: Embassies opened in Pyongyang and London after the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the UK and the DPRK in December 2000. Our relationship with the DPRK is one of constructive engagement. We take every opportunity to make clear our views on issues of international concern, notably the DPRK's nuclear weapons programme and widespread reports of human rights abuses.

Falkland Islands

22. **Mr. Lindsay Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on relations between the Falkland Islands Government and the Argentinian Government. [5716]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Falkland Islands are a United Kingdom overseas territory and as such the United Kingdom Government are responsible for their international relations.

The United Kingdom values its relationship with Argentina and wants it to be as constructive and as positive as possible.

European Constitutional Treaty

23. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the ratification of the treaty establishing a constitution for Europe. [5717]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member for Forest Dean to the statement to the House made yesterday by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, *Official Report*, column 523.

24. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on progress on the treaty establishing a constitution for Europe. [5718]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. member for Congleton to the statement to the House made yesterday by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, *Official Report*, column 523.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral statement of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1005, on the EU constitutional treaty, if he will list the articles of the Maastricht treaty under which the European Defence Agency was established; and what the basis was for his statement that the European Defence Agency is not in the EU constitutional treaty, with particular reference to article I-41(3) of that treaty. [4975]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The European Defence Agency was formally established on 12 July 2004 by a unanimous decision by Heads of State and Government. It was established under the Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP on the basis of article 14 of the treaty on the European Union (Maastricht).

The establishment of the EDA is referred to in the text of the constitutional treaty (article IV/438). If and when the constitutional treaty comes into force it will provide a new legal base for the EDA; unless and until that time the Council Joint Action is sufficient legal base.

China (Religious Policy)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received concerning raids and arrests in late May by Chinese police in house churches in the Changchun area of China; and what representations he has made to the Chinese Government. [6341]

Ian Pearson: We are aware of the arrests to which my hon. Friend refers and are monitoring the situation.

We are concerned about the issue of religious freedom in China. During his most recent trip to China in January 2005, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised progress on the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which contains provisions on freedom of conscience and religion. The case of house church leader, Pastor Zhang Rongliang, was also discussed.

We also raised our concerns on religion with the Chinese Government at the latest round of our biannual UK/China human rights dialogue, held in London on 6 June.

Colombia

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the UK Government plan to monitor implementation of the UN human rights recommendations referred to in the UNCHR Chair's Statement on Colombia; and if the Government will take steps to ensure that appropriate *(a)* international organisations and *(b)* other countries take steps to monitor the implementation of those recommendations through an appropriate six months monitoring mechanism. [5743]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations Commission for Human Rights (UNCHR) Chairperson's statement on Colombia calls for the prompt implementation of UN human rights recommendations. Although it does not specifically seek to establish a formal six months monitoring mechanism to help achieve this aim, the international community will continue to closely monitor progress in implementation of the recommendations. They will do so through the regular contacts which the G24, the group drawn from participants the 2003 London meeting of international support for Colombia which includes the EU, has with the Colombia office of the UN high commissioner for human rights, the Colombian Government and Colombian and international civil society. The international community will also continue to look for ways to encourage and assist the Colombian Government to improve the human rights situation in Colombia.

Craig Alden

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the family of Craig Alden. [5765]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Mrs. Alden, Craig's mother; and her then Member of Parliament, the former Member for Cambridgeshire, North-West, (Sir Brian Mawhinney), in April 2004. The Foreign Secretary has since been regularly updated on this case. Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials maintain a regular dialogue with Craig's family and have twice met with Mrs. Alden in the last four months.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Brazil on the case of Craig Alden. [5766]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to his Brazilian counterpart on 30 March regarding Mr. Alden's case based on conclusions in the reports produced by Mr. Alden's pro bono lawyer. The Foreign Secretary's letter is being followed up by our Ambassador in Brasilia on a regular basis.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the Brazilian Ambassador to discuss the case of Craig Alden. [5767]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has never discussed the case of Mr. Craig Alden with the Brazilian Ambassador. He wrote to the Brazilian Foreign Minister about Mr. Alden's case on 30 March.

Ethiopia

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Ethiopia. [5169]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 741W.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the recent parliamentary elections in Ethiopia were free and fair. [5214]

Ian Pearson: It would be premature to speculate on the final outcome of the Ethiopian election. The National Electoral Board is still investigating reports of irregularities in some 300 constituencies. We will await the final assessment of the EU Election Monitoring Mission on the conduct of the election.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the causes of civil unrest in Addis Ababa following the announcement of the provisional results of the recent parliamentary election. [5215]

Ian Pearson: The civil unrest appears to have been caused by the delay in confirming the results of the 15 May elections and the allegations of malpractice. The parties have now agreed on the procedure for the investigation of complaints to enable the National Electoral Board to complete its work impartially. We have urged all the parties to respect the constitutionally established law and the democratic institutions and to exercise restraint.

EU Embassies

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many embassies the EU has; and how many new ones are planned. [5211]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The European Union does not have any embassies overseas and there are no plans to open any. However, the European Commission has 123 missions to third countries, five missions to international organisations, four representations and offices, and seven technical offices. These represent the EU in areas of Commission competence such as external trade and European Commission development assistance. The first Commission overseas mission was established in 1954.

European Defence Agency

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget is for the first year of the European Defence Agency. [5203]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The European Defence Agency was established in July 2004. Its budget from July 2004 to the end of 2004 was €1.8 million. The Agency has a budget of €19.9 million for 2005. For 2005 the United Kingdom will pay €3,596, 803, met from the Ministry of Defences's budget.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the EU is taking to set up the European Defence Agency. [5204]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The European Defence Agency was formally established on 12 July 2004 by a unanimous decision by Heads of State and Government. It was established under the Council Joint Action 2004/5 51/CFSP on the basis of Article 14 of the treaty on the European Union (Maastricht).

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff are planned to be employed by the European Defence Agency. [5213]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Agency has a budget to employ 80 staff in 2005. The UK has worked to ensure that staffing levels in the EDA remain low. The EDA's chief executive is Nick Witney, a former UK Ministry of Defence civil servant.

European Fundamental Rights Agency

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken by the EU to set up a European fundamental rights agency. [5205]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The EU is taking the following steps to set up the European fundamental rights agency:

The European Council decided in December 2003 to extend the remit of the Vienna-based EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) to become a human rights agency. In December 2004, the European Council called for further implementation of this decision.

In October 2004, the European Commission published a communication in order to seek the views of member state Governments and civil society on the agency. In January 2005, the UK Government published its response to the communication, which is available at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/consulting_public/fundamental_rights_agency/doc/contribution_uk_en.pdf).

The Commission is shortly expected to publish a proposal for a legal instrument establishing the fundamental rights agency.

European Strategy Committee

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the European Strategy Committee have met; and whether further meetings are planned. [1649]

Mr. Hutton: I have been asked to reply.

Although the Government publish the title, membership and terms of reference of cabinet committees, it has been the practice of successive governments not to disclose when they meet or the details of their proceedings, including the dates they meet.

Liberia

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress on the comprehensive peace agreement in Liberia. [5691]

Ian Pearson: Since the comprehensive peace accord was signed in August 2003, fighting in Liberia has ended. The United Nations Mission in Liberia has established control of the country; disarmament of ex-combatants has been completed; and the country is preparing for elections in October. Progress has been positive, but further steps must be taken towards improved governance and economic accountability within the National Transitional Government of Liberia.

Nigeria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to help relieve ethnic tensions in Nigeria. [5334]

Ian Pearson: Representatives from the British high commission in Abuja regularly raise incidents of ethnic unrest in Nigeria with the relevant federal and state authorities. Specific initiatives we are supporting to address ethnic tension include funding the work of Coventry Cathedral's International Centre for Reconciliation to decrease violence in Plateau State, and working with the Nigerian Presidential Implementation Committee to put in place their recently agreed strategic conflict assessment.

Russia

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the Russian Foreign Minister to discuss *(a)* legal reform and *(b)* judicial independence in Russia. [5537]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary talked about the independence of the judiciary in Russia

with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov when they met in London on 1 March this year. The Foreign Secretary and Mr. Lavrov also discussed the state of human rights and democracy in Russia in the context of Russia's membership of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. More recently my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the present state of Russia and its future development, including judicial reform, with President Putin in Moscow on 13 June.

We have made clear the importance we attach to the rule of law and its impact on investor confidence through our regular Ministerial as well as Embassy contacts with the Russian Government. These contacts include a bilateral human rights dialogue with the Russian Government. The latest round of talks was held in Moscow on 23 May 2005. Discussion included questions about progress on judicial reform in Russia as well as opportunities for building on on-going project work in the area of penal reform.

We are also engaged, with our European partners, in biannual EU-Russia human rights consultations. The first session of consultations took place in Luxembourg on 1 March 2005. The next round of consultations is scheduled to take place under the UK presidency of the EU on 8 September 2005.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further reforms relating to the rule of law in Russia the UK would require to be put in place before agreeing to Russia being accepted as a member of the World Trade Organisation. [5538]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The European Commission leads on World Trade Organisation issues on behalf of EU member states. WTO accession negotiations between the EU and Russia were concluded in May 2004. Russian WTO membership is now pending the successful conclusion of negotiations with other WTO members.

Rwanda/Burundi

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Burundian authorities on the deportation of Rwandan asylum seekers; and if he will make a statement. [5690]

Ian Pearson: We have spoken to both the Burundian and Rwandan Governments to remind them of their obligations under relevant international law, particularly the principles set out in the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1974 Organization of African Unity Convention, to which both countries are signatories. We have urged both Governments to co-operate fully with staff of the UN high commission for refugees and other UN agencies.

Sudan

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Home Office regarding Sudanese refugees facing torture in Sudan. [4931]

Ian Pearson: We hold regular discussions with the Home Office regarding the status of Sudanese refugees who could face torture in Sudan. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides regular updates and responds to specific requests from the Home Office on the situation and conditions in Sudan, which inform asylum caseworkers' decisions.

Our embassy in Khartoum, both bilaterally and as part of the EU-Sudan dialogue, makes regular representations to the Sudanese Government on the need for it to abide by international humanitarian law, including international human rights treaties. We have also committed £7.2 million for a programme to reform the Sudanese judicial sector and ensure it complements Sudan's international human rights obligations, including by ratifying and implementing the UN Convention Against Torture.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights that the Janjaweed have operated with impunity and in close co-ordination with the forces of the Government of Sudan; [4969]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to implement the UN Security Council's resolution of 30 July 2004 to disarm the Janjaweed militia. [4925]

Ian Pearson: On 7 May 2004 the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report in which he outlined his concerns that Janjaweed militias were operating with impunity and in close co-ordination with the forces of the Government of Sudan (GoS).

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1556, passed on 30 July 2004, demanded that the GoS disarm the Janjaweed militias and apprehend and bring to justice Janjaweed leaders responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. We have made clear to the Government that we expect it to tackle the climate of impunity and to comply with this Resolution, and all other commitments it has made.

On 31 March 2005, the Security Council also passed resolution 1593, which we sponsored, referring the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court. We are pressing the GoS to co-operate in full with the court.

Only a political solution to this conflict will create the necessary conditions for long-term peace and a sustainable disarmament process in Darfur. We therefore welcome the resumption, on 10 June, of the Abuja peace talks for Darfur. A UK Observer is attending the talks.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans are being developed *(a)* to return the displaced people of Darfur to their homes and *(b)* to provide them with security. [4923]

Ian Pearson: We have made clear to the Government of Sudan (GoS) that all returns must be voluntary, and carried out in full accordance with the established international mechanisms.

Improving the security situation is key if those who have been displaced are to return to their homes. We are pressing the GoS to ensure the safety of its civilians and improve the security situation there, but the African Union (AU) mission also has a key role to play.

We welcome the planned expansion of the AU mission to over 7,700 personnel and have allocated £19 million in support of this. Where AU troops are deployed, they have helped create the necessary conditions for some Internally Displaced Persons returns. For example in Labado and Khor Abeche the AU presence has, according to the UN, enabled 15,000 and 4,500 people respectively to return to their homes. The additional troops will enable the AU to provide greater geographical coverage in Darfur, and a more permanent presence in areas where it is already deployed.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Arab League about the killing of African Muslims in Darfur. [4971]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 477W.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to establish a no-fly zone over Darfur. [4972]

Ian Pearson: The Government of Sudan (GoS) signed the Abuja Security Protocol on 9 November 2004, which commits them to refrain from all hostile military overflights over Darfur. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1591, the African Union (AU) is requested to monitor compliance by GoS with this commitment. We continue to make clear to both the GoS and the rebels that they must abide fully by the commitments they have made, and the UN Security Council Resolution.

In early February the GoS announced that they would remove their Antonov aircraft from Darfur and refrain from hostile use of aircraft there. The Antonovs appear to have been withdrawn. Although helicopter gunships remain in Darfur, the AU and the UN Secretary-General report that the Government has not conducted any air attacks since January.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which international organisation is funding the airlift of African Union troops into Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [5002]

Ian Pearson: Both NATO and the EU are committed to supporting expansion of the African Union's (AU) mission in Darfur and are considering, in response to AU requests, assistance across a range of areas, including support for the airlift of AU troops into Darfur. Neither the EU nor NATO has yet made formal detailed offers of assistance to the AU. but both organisations are expected to play a role in co-ordinating offers from their members of aircraft and funds to support the airlift of AU troops. In this context, the UK will provide—subject to AU requirements and other donors' contributions—financial assistance to support the airlift, co-ordinated by NATO, of up to three battalions.

Uganda

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent statement made by the World Bank on the future of Uganda. [4076]

Ian Pearson: The World Bank has not shared any recent statement on the future of Uganda with us.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials met organisations representing the Ugandan Government; and which organisations were involved. [5877]

Ian Pearson: Officials at the British high commission in Kampala met a representative from Hill and Knowlton PR company on 15 March. Another of the company's representatives accompanied Ugandan Ministers Kutesa and Mbabazi on a call at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 14 April. We maintain a wide range of contacts on Uganda with Government representatives, NGOs, members of the diaspora and others

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the situation in Northern Uganda; and what steps he is taking *(a)* to advance a cease-fire, *(b)* to help bring to account those who have committed war crimes through the International Criminal Court and *(c)* to assist land reform. [5975]

Ian Pearson: We remain concerned at the continuing conflict in the north of Uganda. A sustainable peace will require more than simply a military solution and we are continuing to support Betty Bigombe's, former Minister for the North, locally led mediation efforts.

We are working closely with the International Criminal Court (ICC). The prosecutor of the ICC announced his decision to launch a formal investigation into the situation in Northern Uganda in July 2004. Because of the need to respect his independence, and to protect the integrity of the Court's operations, we cannot comment on the operational aspects of specific ICC investigations, nor reveal what support the UK is providing.

The Ugandan Government are currently finalising the Land Use Policy, which covers Uganda as a whole. It aims to link land reform to poverty reduction and other important issues, including strengthening women's rights. The UK was instrumental in developing the Land Act, which preceded the policy. In the north, most of the population is currently displaced. It will be important to ensure that their access and property rights are protected. We are monitoring this issue very closely.

Uzbekistan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to the Uzbek National Parliament on the role of the Parliamentary Commission in investigating the recent troubles; [5244]

(2) whether the UK was invited to be part of the task force set up by the Uzbek Government to investigate Andijan. [5974]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK has made no representations to the Uzbek National Parliament on the role of the Parliamentary Committee in investigating the recent unrest in Andizhan (Andijan). But at the General Affairs External Relations Council on 13 June, the UK and its EU partners made it clear to the Uzbek authorities that the parliamentary inquiry was an inadequate response, and called on them to reconsider their position on an independent international inquiry. It is only in this way that we will form a clear understanding of the events of 12–13 May, and the circumstances surrounding them.

The UK was not invited to monitor the Uzbek Parliamentary investigation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the involvement of foreign nationals in the recent disorders in Andijan. [5245]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We do not yet have a clear understanding of what happened in Andizhan (Andijan). It is for this reason, given the reports of a disproportionate use of force, that my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has repeatedly called for an immediate, independent and international inquiry into the events that occurred in Andizhan on 12–13 May 2005.

TRANSPORT

MOT Testing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will defer the introduction of computerised MOT testing of vehicles until he has ascertained that the computerised procedure will save time; and if he will make a statement. [5168]

Dr. Ladyman: The computerisation of the MOT system is designed to deliver a number of benefits and a reduction in time taken was not among those planned.

Air Transport (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights there were *(a)* from and *(b)* to (i) Gatwick, (ii) Heathrow, (iii) Stansted and (iv) London City airport in each of the last five years. [5313]

Ms Buck: The table shows the number of air transport movements to and from Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted and London City airport for each of the last five years.

Number of flights at UK airports: 2000–04

Thousand

To:	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Gatwick	126	122	117	117	120
Heathrow	230	229	230	228	235
Stansted	72	75	76	84	88
London City	25	27	26	24	27
From:					
Gatwick	126	122	117	117	121
Heathrow	230	229	230	229	235
Stansted	72	75	77	85	89
London City	24	27	26	24	27

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the operation of the blue badge scheme, with particular reference to the requirement to *(a)* display the badge and *(b)* produce it on demand. [6148]

Ms Buck: The blue badge scheme provides a national arrangement of parking concessions primarily for people with severe walking difficulties, which is administered by local authorities. Their role includes the assessment of applications, the issue of blue badges as well as enforcement of the scheme itself.

Display of the badge

To use the concessions under the scheme badge holders must display the badge on the dashboard or fascia panel of the vehicle, with the front facing forward, so that the relevant details are clearly legible from outside of the vehicle.

Production of the badge for inspection

At present there is no requirement for a badge holder to produce the badge for inspection. However, following a recent review of the blue badge scheme, the Government accepted a number of recommendations from our statutory advisers, the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, including the provision for a power to inspect blue badges. This was successfully introduced in the Traffic Management Act 2004. The new power will be implemented later in the year by Commencement Order. This will allow us the time to produce and consult on the necessary guidance that will be required by enforcement officers and badge holders themselves.

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in his Department in 2004–05. [4543]

Ms Buck: In pre-Budget report 2004 the Chancellor reported OGC value for money gains in central civil Government procurement for 2003–04 of £2 billion. OGC value for money procurement gains for 2004–05 are being calculated and will be published in the 2005 Treasury Autumn Performance Report.

In Budget 2005 the Chancellor announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a gross reduction of 84,000 civil service and administrative posts by 2008.

The number of filled civil service posts measured on a full-time equivalent basis, including both permanent and casual staff, released due to efficiency in the Department for Transport between 1 April 2004 and 1 April 2005 was 352.

The Department has necessarily had to recruit additional staff to its priority frontline areas during 2004–05, including the Transport Security & Contingencies Directorate and the Accident Investigation Branches (rail, aviation and marine) within the central Department, traffic officers within the Highways Agency and driving examiners within the Driving Standards Agency.

Crossrail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures Crossrail is taking to compensate for loss of facility *(a)* on Westlands playing field and *(b)* at St. Edward's school due to construction works. [5415]

Derek Twigg: The impacts, both temporary and permanent, of the land take from Westlands playing fields and St. Edward's school required to construct the Crossrail depot are recognised. Measures to mitigate these impacts are currently under discussion with the London borough of Havering.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the latest estimate is of the cost of construction of the Crossrail project, including the Romford maintenance depot and related works on the north-eastern branch. [5421]

Derek Twigg: The Estimate of Expense submitted with the Crossrail hybrid Bill estimates the cost of Crossrail as £10.292 billion in first quarter 2002 prices.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely cost of construction of the Crossrail project, including maintenance depot and related works, on the north-eastern route, if the depot were to be built at site *(a)* GE1, Cowbridge Grange Farm, *(b)* GE2, Little Cowbridge Grange, *(c)* GE7, Arnold's Wood, *(d)* GE9, Brentwood Allotments, *(e)* GE10, Brentwood A12 Hotel site and *(f)* GE12, Harold Court. [5422]

Derek Twigg: No such estimates have been made for these sites as they were discounted after stage one of Cross London Rail Links depot location assessment. A report detailing the depot site selection process was released by Cross London Rail Links on 26 May 2005 and is available on their website.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the incremental *(a)* net present value and *(b)* cost-benefit ratio to Crossrail for (i) Whitechapel station and (ii) the Shenfield branch line to Liverpool Street. [5424]

Derek Twigg: I understand from Cross London Rail Links that the incremental benefit: cost ratio for the Shenfield branch is 8.7:1 (calculated by adding that branch to a base scheme of Paddington to Isle of Dogs). The Net Present Value (defined as the Present Value of Benefits minus the Present Value of Costs) for the Shenfield branch is + £6,258 million. Their estimates are at first quarter 2002 prices.

The analysis of costs and benefits is not disaggregated to the level of individual stations. However, the incremental cost of Whitechapel station is some £320 million, including risk and contingency, at first quarter 2002 prices.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment Network Rail has made of Crossrail plans for *(a)* operations over the great eastern main line and *(b)* increased services from Stansted and Hertford East into London. [5425]

Derek Twigg: As part of ongoing discussion between Network Rail, Department for Transport and Cross London Rail Links Ltd. (CLRL), timetabling information and modelling studies for Crossrail undertaken by CLRL are being shared with Network Rail for their comment, further development and, in due course, verification.

By releasing platform capacity at Liverpool Street, Crossrail would improve the potential for expansion of services from the Lea Valley.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether provision has been made for extension of the Crossrail system beyond the routes included in the current Bill. [5426]

Derek Twigg: In order to facilitate extension of Crossrail in the long-term, a direction to safeguard a section of the north Kent line between Abbey Wood and a proposed new station at Ebbsfleet was issued on 24 February 2005. As soon as practicable we will begin consultation on safeguarding land for potential infrastructure enhancements along this section.

We have said that we will consult on the possibility of safeguarding a potential westward extension of Crossrail to Reading. We will start that consultation as soon as practicable.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost is for the construction of the Crossrail maintenance depot and related works in Romford. [5427]

Derek Twigg: The estimated cost for the construction of the Crossrail maintenance depot and related works at Romford is £430 million.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Crossrail trains are expected to travel from *(a)* Abbey Wood to Heathrow and *(b)* Shenfield to Heathrow without the need for passenger transfer. [5428]

Derek Twigg: For project appraisal purposes, Cross London Rail Links Ltd. (CLRL) has assumed that, typically, four trains per hour will operate directly between Abbey Wood and Heathrow airport. On this basis, there would be no direct service from Shenfield to Heathrow; passengers would change at any Central London station and catch a Crossrail train on the same platform to Heathrow. These service patterns are indicative at this stage.

The final service pattern will be decided when the operational working timetable is planned.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government are taking to ensure that green belt land is preserved in relation to the building of Crossrail facilities in Romford. [5430]

Derek Twigg: In developing the Crossrail route Cross London Rail Links Limited have sought to minimise its impact on green belt land. The Environmental Statement prepared for Crossrail makes it clear that the impacts of Crossrail are outweighed by its benefits, and that the impacts—though rightly important to those affected—are overall small for a project the size of Crossrail. While a small strip of approximately 4.3 hectares of green belt land is needed for a dive under at Romford, to allow Crossrail trains to cross the Great Eastern Main Line, the proposed maintenance depot at Romford will be located on a brownfield site.

Fare Evasion

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many successful prosecutions were carried out against passengers for avoiding fares on *(a)* trains, *(b)* buses and *(c)* the tube in London in each year since 1997. [2511]

Ms Buck: Transport for London is responsible for prosecutions for fare evasion on buses in London. This information is not held centrally.

The information requested in regard to trains and the tube in London can only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Motorway Repairs

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which body is responsible for determining the highway speed limits which apply during major long-term road works; at what level of seniority such decisions are taken; what the policy is on speed limits in place during periods when working is temporarily suspended; and if he will make a statement. [5952]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* It is for the highway authority to determine an appropriate speed limit for major long-term road works. For trunk roads, this is the Highways Agency.

Decisions are made by qualified and experienced highway engineers, based on the statutory guidance in chapter 8 of the DfT's Traffic Signs Manual and in consultation with the police.

When works are temporally suspended, the Highways Agency removes temporary traffic management and speed limits where it is safe and cost-effective to do so.

North-West Airports

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many aircraft used *(a)* Blackpool, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* Liverpool airport in each of the last three years. [6025]

Ms Buck: The following table shows number of air transport movements at Blackpool, Manchester and Liverpool airport for each of the last three years.

Number of flights at UK airports: 2002–04

Thousand

Total	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Blackpool	8	9	10
Manchester	178	192	208
Liverpool	33	39	40

Nuclear Waste

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the transport by rail of nuclear waste. [5290]

Derek Twigg: Transport of such material is subject to strict regulation, based upon the internationally agreed recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA—Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material) to ensure protection of members of the public, workers and the environment from the potential effects of radiation. Rail transport has proved to be a practical and efficient mode of transport for the heavy loads involved. In 40 years of experience of these transports in the UK there has never been an accident resulting in death or serious injury to persons, nor significant harm to the environment from radiological cause when transported in accordance with the IAEA Regulations.

Railways

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* specialist locomotives and *(b)* other items of rolling stock are in use to facilitate the maintenance of the railways; and what change there has been in the numbers of each in each of the last 10 years. [5219]

Derek Twigg: This is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail will respond directly to the hon. Member.

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to return the national rail network to public ownership. [4689]

Derek Twigg: The Government have no plans to return the national rail network to public ownership. Both public and private money is benefiting the railway. Re-nationalisation would not only mean covering the costs of buying back the railway, but also losing that private source of money.

Following the Rail Review, the "Future of Rail" White Paper set out a new streamlined structure based on the principle of public and private partnership, recognising rail's importance as a vital public service specified by the Government and delivered by the private sector.

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will instruct the Strategic Rail Authority that increased passenger services between Cardiff and London should be a condition of the new franchise. [4690]

Derek Twigg: No. The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) issued invitations to tender to bidders for the new Greater Western franchise on 2 June. The current half-hourly 'inter-city' service between Cardiff and London is included in the timetabled specification that forms the base case, which means that each bidder will commit to provide it. Bidders are, however, being asked to separately cost a reduction in the service frequency in the off-peak from half-hourly to hourly, to determine the value for money of operating these services within the new franchise.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of the number of passengers standing on train journeys; and what targets have been set on standing in trains. [5223]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport does not hold information on the estimates for the number of people standing on trains. All train operating companies are required by their franchise agreements to manage crowding by ensuring that adequate capacity is provided to meet passenger needs as far as possible. All rolling stock has a nominal capacity. Under normal circumstances for journeys of 20 minutes or more, the

capacity is taken to be the number of seats provided, and no passenger should need to stand for more than 20 minutes. For journeys of less than 20 minutes an allowance is made for no more than 30 per cent. of passengers to be standing.

In addition, London and Edinburgh commuter operators are subject to specific standards for managing crowding in the morning and evening peaks. These are that the average number of passengers carried does not exceed the nominal capacity by more than 4.5 per cent. in either peak taken in isolation, or more than 3 per cent. for both peaks combined. The Strategic Rail Authority publishes data in National Rail Trends about the commuter operators' performance, and this is in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which franchise he expects to be responsible for the Crewe to Derby rail service following the break-up of Central Trains; [5774]

(2) which franchise he expects to become responsible for services operated on the Birmingham to Nottingham route via Burton-on-Trent by Central Trains following the break-up of that company. [5775]

Derek Twigg: The Strategic Rail Authority has begun informal consultation with industry stakeholders including Passenger Transport Executives and local authorities. Specific proposals for the re-allocation of Central Trains' services to other franchises will be considered later in the year and consulted on before Invitations to Tender are issued.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate of rail use is in terms of *(a)* passenger miles and *(b)* tonnage of freight; and what the levels were for 1997. [5224]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is in the following table.

	1996–97	*2003–04*
Passenger kilometres (billions)	32.1	40.9
Freight moved (billion net tonne kilometres)	15.1	18.9

The number of passenger kilometres and amount of freight moved is published in the Strategic Rail Authority's National Rail Trends Yearbook 2003–04 (June 2004), reproduced in the afore mentioned table.

Figures for the year 2004–05 will be detailed in the next Yearbook, due to be published 24 June 2005. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what public funds have been made available in each of the last three years to maintain the track from *(a)* London to Reading, *(b)* Reading to Exeter and *(c)* Exeter to Plymouth; and what steps he is taking to ensure that Railtrack maintains the rails to the West Country to a sufficient specification to enable high-speed trains *(a)* to run from London to Plymouth daily in under three hours and *(b)* to keep to schedule. [5963]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail is a private sector company, and so it is not for a Government Department to direct how it spends the money available to it at a local level. However, through a combination of the service specifications in the franchise agreements between the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and the train operators, the train operating companies' track access agreements with Network Rail to deliver these, Network Rail's duties under condition 7 of its Network Licence and the network outputs specified in the Office of Rail Regulation's review of Network Rail's access charges, a commercial and regulatory framework exists to ensure that the network is maintained at an appropriate standard.

Network Rail's planned expenditure on the Reading-Penzance Route is set out in its 2005 Business Plan Route Plans' document, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

The Route Utilisation Strategy for the Great Western route will be published shortly by the SRA. This strategy, which extends to 2012, does not envisage any reduction in the capability of the Great Western Mainline.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many prosecutions for trespass on railways in the UK there were in each of the last five years. [4707]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport police advise that the total numbers of prosecutions for trespass on the railway in England and Wales for the past five years are as follows:

As at 1 April to 31 March:	*Trespass prosecutions*
2000–01	457
2001–02	740
2002–03	675
2003–04	802
2004–05	687

The British Transport police does not hold data on Scottish prosecutions. The British Transport police does not police the railways in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of railway track have been replaced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [5230]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail advises that for each year between 2000–01 and 2004–05 the total length of track where re-railing has been carried out is as follows:

	Total track re-laid in miles
2000–01	661
2001–02	611
2002–03	628
2003–04	871
2004–05	626

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on rolling stock levels *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 1994. [5655]

Derek Twigg: In April 2005 there were 10,897 vehicles in use on revenue earning services operated by franchised train operating companies. At the time of rail privatisation there were 9,979.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the economic effects of the rail sleeper service on Cornwall. [5369]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* None. The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) issued Invitations to Tender to bidders for the new Greater Western franchise on 2 June. The sleeper service is included in the timetabled specification that forms the Base Case, which means that each bidder will commit to provide it. Bidders are, however, being asked to cost running it separately to determine the value for money of operating these services within the new franchise and to allow an assessment of an option in which the current sleeper service are removed. In addition, they are being asked to propose more cost-effective ways of meeting the demand which the sleeper service accommodates.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the future of the Night Riviera sleeping service from Paddington to Penzance. [4976]

Derek Twigg: The Strategic Rail Authority issued invitations to tender to bidders for the new Greater Western franchise on 2 June. The sleeper service is included in the base specification which means that each bidder must agree to provide it. Bidders are, however, being asked to cost running it separately to determine the value for money of operating these services within the new franchise.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to remove the requirement for the night sleeper rail services to Edinburgh and Glasgow in the next round of tender bids. [4950]

Derek Twigg: Sleeper services between England and Scotland are part of the ScotRail franchise which was re-let on 17 October 2004 and will run until October 2011. Under the Railways Act 2005, the Scottish Executive will be wholly responsible for the ScotRail franchise from later this year.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government have evaluated the case for a high-speed rail link between South Wales and London. [5539]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* No. First Great Western currently operates high speed trains between South Wales and London with a maximum speed of 125 miles per hour. The Strategic Rail Authority has consulted on a Great Western Main Line "Route Utilisation Strategy" to determine the most efficient use of current network infrastructure. A final strategy will be published shortly.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that the level of on-board catering will be a consideration of the franchise document for the West of England franchise. [5966]

Derek Twigg: The provision and level of on-board catering will remain a commercial matter for the train operator. However, bidders are required to submit an on train catering plan with their bid which will form part of the evaluation.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will ensure that account is taken of *(a)* the quality of the rolling stock, *(b)* the reliability of the engines to be used and *(c)* the speed of the journeys in evaluating the franchise bids from each operator for the Westcountry rail franchise; [4947]

(2) if he will ensure that account is taken of the number of trains that can maintain a realistic and punctual daily timetable in evaluating the franchise bids from each operator for the Westcountry rail franchise. [4948]

Derek Twigg: A key objective in letting the franchise is to improve operational performance and to sustain a level of service quality consistent with meeting customer needs. A service level commitment specifying a minimum level of service including maximum journey times has been developed with these aims in mind.

Bidders are required to produce plans to improve current performance through better fleet management and demonstrate an efficient and effective use of the extensive range of fleet maintenance services and stabling facilities available within the Greater Western area in their bids. They may propose to refurbish or acquire alternative or additional rolling stock to meet these requirements. In addition, the Greater Western franchise will benefit from the replacement of the HST fleet planned to be in service in 2014.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consultation he has carried out with business leaders in Devon and Cornwall in assessing whether the night sleeper between London and Penzance should be included in the franchise documents for the Westcountry franchise; what research he has conducted into the effect of the withdrawal of the Westcountry sleeper on the economy of Devon and Cornwall; and if he will make a statement; [4949]

(2) if he will include in his rail tender documents for the South West a requirement to include the night sleeper service to and from Penzance; if he will provide a financial credit for those companies offering this service in their franchise bid; and if he will make a statement. [4951]

Derek Twigg: No assessment of the economic effect has been made as it would not be appropriate at this stage. The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) issued invitations to tender to bidders for the new Greater Western franchise on 2 June. The sleeper service is included in the timetabled specification that forms the base case, which means that each bidder will commit to provide it. Bidders are, however, being asked to cost running it separately to determine the value for money of operating these services within the new franchise and to allow an assessment of an option in which the current sleeper service are removed. They are also being asked to propose more cost-effective ways of meeting the demand which the sleeper service accommodates.

Road Congestion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on reducing road congestion. [4381]

Dr. Ladyman: Significant progress has been made putting measures in place to tackle congestion. Since 2001 we have completed 29 major strategic road schemes. A further 13 major schemes are currently under construction, including widening of the M25 between junctions 12 to 15 around Heathrow.

Uniformed Highways Agency Traffic Officers are now patrolling the motorway network in the West Midlands, having taken over some responsibilities from the police for clearing up quickly around incidents to keep traffic moving. The first of our new network of Regional Control Centres have taken over responsibility for Variable Message Signs from the police.

Britain's first High Occupancy Vehicle (carpool) motorway lane will be trialled on the M1 between junctions 7 and 10 (St. Albans to Luton) in 2008, following widening of the motorway. As part of an Active Traffic Management pilot on the M42 corridor between junctions 3a and 7 to the south-east of Birmingham, variable speed limits became operational this spring, with other aspects of the pilot to follow in 2006, including hard shoulder running and access management. Both schemes will operate at peak times to help minimise delay and congestion for road users.

Transport Direct, the Government's real-time travel information and journey planning service for public and private transport, was launched in December. Travellers can check as to the likelihood of delays and see whether choosing a different route, departure time or transport mode might suit them better.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 gave local authorities a duty and new powers to do all that is reasonably practicable to keep roads clear and traffic moving. The Government consulted earlier this year on plans to introduce tougher regulations on streetworks by utility companies, including higher penalties for overrunning, permit schemes and bans on carrying out works on recently dug up roads.

The Government have announced their intention to establish a Transport Innovation Fund to help local authorities develop local charging schemes.

Road Pricing

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the devolved administrations on road pricing. [5153]

Dr. Ladyman: The devolved administrations were represented on the Road Pricing Feasibility Study (published by the Department for Transport in July 2004), which recognised a number of issues which would need to be resolved were road pricing to be taken forward. In line with its manifesto commitments, the Government will examine the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing. Officials from the Department for Transport maintain contact with officials from the devolved administrations in the course of business.

Transport Innovation Fund

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he will announce details of the operation and size of the Transport Innovation Fund; [5187]

(2) how much has been allocated in each financial year for which allocations have been made to the Transport Innovation Fund *(a)* in total and *(b)* to local authorities for transport projects; [5188]

(3) what estimate he has made of the allocations which will be made from the Transport Innovation Fund to local authorities for transport projects in years for which allocations have not yet been finalised. [5257]

Ms Buck: Money from the Transport Innovation Fund will become available from 2008–09 and is forecast to grow from £290 million in 2008–09 to over £2 billion by 2014–15. Allocations for each financial year have not yet been made.

Further information about the aims and operation of the Fund will be published shortly. The Secretary of State has confirmed, however, that ultimately up to £200 million a year will be made available from the Fund to support local authorities implementing innovative solutions to congestion problems in their local area where these include demand management based on pricing.

Transport Policy (Wales)

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government adviser on transport, Sir Rod Eddington, will consider any transport projects of specific relevance to Wales in his review of long-term policy. [5540]

Ms Buck *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Sir Rod Eddington will advise on the long-term impacts of transport decisions on the UK's productivity, stability and growth.

The study will look at a range of potential transport decisions across the UK. Informed by a strong evidence base, advice will be provided on how these transport decisions may affect the productivity and growth of the UK economy over the next 30 years.

Public Transport (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus services are operated in Lancashire; how many were operated in each of the last two years; and what services are planned. [6023]

Ms Buck: I am advised by Lancashire county council that there are currently a total of 848 bus services operated in Lancashire. Of these 440 are school services. Figures for previous years are not available, but the council estimate that the current figure is a slight decrease. As the majority of bus services are provided on a commercial basis by operators, who make their own decisions on services provision, there is only limited information about planned future services.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Lancashire county council about transport needs. [6024]

Ms Buck: The Department for Transport and Government office north-west maintain a regular dialogue with Lancashire county council on a range of transport issues. We are currently discussing the development of their second local transport plan, a provisional version of which is due for submission on 29 July 2005.

Viaducts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list rail viaducts in use which have exceeded their original planned end-of-life date. [5225]

Derek Twigg: This is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail will respond directly to the hon. Member.

CABINET OFFICE

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3540]

Mr. Hutton: The Cabinet Office produces and publishes a race equality scheme that sets out how it plans to meet the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. This scheme also covers the Government Car and Despatch Agency. The Central Office of Information has its own scheme.

TREASURY

Alcohol Deaths

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many deaths in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* Hornsey and Wood Green alcohol was the primary cause in each of the last five years. [5722]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Ms Lynne Featherstone, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking in respect of how many deaths in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* Hornsey and Wood Green alcohol was the primary cause in each of the last five years. (5722)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2004. The table below shows the numbers of deaths among residents of Greater London and Hornsey and Wood Green Parliamentary Constituency where the underlying cause of death indicated a condition directly related to alcohol use in the years 2000 to 2004.

Alcohol-related deaths[1] to usual residents of Greater London and Hornsey and Wood Green parliamentary constituency, registered 2000 to 2004

Number of deaths

	Greater London	*Hornsey and Wood Green*
2000	806	6
2001	809	8
2002	838	9
2003	834	8
2004	772	12

[1] For the year 2000 the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9). The codes used by ONS to define alcohol-related deaths are listed below:
291—Alcoholic psychoses
303—Alcohol dependence syndrome
305.0—Non-dependent abuse of alcohol
425.5—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
571—Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
E860—Accidental poisoning by alcohol
For the years 2001–04 the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) was used. To maintain comparability with earlier years the following codes were used:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
The selection of codes to define alcohol-related deaths is described in:
Baker A and Rooney C (2003). Recent trends in alcohol-related mortality, and the impact of ICD-10 on the monitoring of these deaths in England and Wales. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 17, pp 5–14.

Child Benefit (Family Reunion Scheme)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances it is possible for claimants who enter the UK under the family reunion scheme to be entitled to claim child benefit when one parent is a British national and the other is not. [6280]

Dawn Primarolo: Generally, a claimant is entitled to child benefit provided that he or she is present and ordinarily resident in the UK, and not subject to immigration control. In the case of a couple in which one of the partners is a British national and the other is not, then provided the foreign partner is not subject to immigration control, either partner is entitled to claim child benefit under child benefit legislation.

Child Trust Funds

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the potential financial effects of delaying investing Child Trust Fund vouchers by *(a)* a month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* a year. [5855]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is in the interests of children that parents use the Child Trust Fund voucher to open a Child Trust Fund account as soon as they feel ready to do so. The sooner vouchers are invested, the sooner Child Trust Fund accounts can start to grow.

The loss resulting from a delay in investing the voucher depends on a large number of factors such as the value of the initial voucher, the type of account invested in and the rate of return on this. If parents, friends and family intend to make contributions once the accounts are opened, delaying will further compound the loss of growth.

Climate Change Levy

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 48W, on the climate change levy, what the yield in each year was from each of the other taxes introduced in the past 10 years indicating offsetting cuts in employers' national insurance contributions. [5356]

John Healey: The information requested for taxes for which there were offsetting cuts in employers national insurance contributions (NICs) is given in the following tables.

Aggregates levy (AL) revenues and value of 0.1 percentage point cut in employers' national insurance contributions (NICs)

	AL revenues (£ million) [1]	*Value of 0.1 pp cut in Employers' NICs (£ million)* [2]
2002–03	309	375
2003–04	340	395
2004–05	333 (provisional)	405
2005–06	£0.3 billion (expected)	425

[1] On accruals basis. Based on AL declarations on trader returns
[2] Source: Based on HMT Tax Ready Reckoner

Landfill tax (LFT) revenues and value of 0.2 percentage point cut in main rate of employers' national insurance contributions (NICs)

	LFT revenues (£ million) [1]	*Approximate value of 0.2 pp cut in main rate of Employers' NICs in 1997–98 (£ million)* [2]
1996–97	[3]170	—
1997–98	352	550
1998–99	323	610
1999–2000	442	[4]—
2000–01	476	[4]—
2001–02	508	[4]—
2002–03	538	[4]—
2003–04	638	[4]—
2004–05	668 (provisional)	[4]—
2005–06	£0.7 billion (expected)	[4]—

[1] On accruals basis. Based on LFT declarations on trader returns
[2] Source: Based on HMT Tax Ready Reckoner
[3] From October 1 996
[4] Not available

Landfill tax was introduced with an offsetting 0.2 percentage point cut in the main rate of employer NICs from 1997–98. It is not possible to calculate the effects of the compensation for the landfill tax on employer NICs beyond 1998–99 due to structural changes to employers' NICs in 1999, which abolished the 'entry fee', replaced the series of four rates with a single rate and aligned the point at which individuals and employers pay national insurance with the personal allowance for income tax. It is not known what a 0.2 percentage point cut in the main rate pre-reform translates to in terms of a cut in the single rate post-reform.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 1 April from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire concerning inheritance tax. [6078]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have no record of having received the hon. Member's letter. A copy of it has, however, been requested and it will be dealt with as quickly as possible on receipt.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued to assessors by the Valuation Office Agency for valuing residential properties in the council tax revaluation. [5576]

Dawn Primarolo: The valuation date is 1 April 2005 and considerable work of preparation is being undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency in readiness for the main valuation phase which is due to commence later this summer. Part of this preparation involves updating and developing guidance and training material for VOA staff. The council tax manual which is used currently by the VOA may be found on the website www.voa.gov.uk

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what make of computer-assisted mass appraisal the Valuation Office Agency will use during the council tax revaluation in England. [5578]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency's intended use of computer assisted mass appraisal for the council tax revaluation in England were announced by press release dated 10 September 2004. Since April 2005 calibration of this new technology has been under way in preparation for the valuation task which has to be completed by September 2006

Household Debt

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* unsecured debt and *(b)* annual income per person was in each year since 1997. [6018]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Dr. Vincent Cable dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on unsecured debt per person and annual income per person. (6018)

The information requested is shown in the table below. The data for unsecured debt (households' total financial liabilities other than secured debt) and income (households' gross disposable income) used in the calculations are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. The accounts for the household and NPISH sectors are currently combined; separate estimates are not available.

For the denominator in the calculations the series used is Population aged 16+.

Annual income and unsecured debt per person, 1997–2004

£

	Annual income per person	*Unsecured debt per person*
1997	12,420	3,540
1998	12,730	3,790
1999	13,310	4,090

Annual income and unsecured debt per person, 1997–2004

£

	Annual income per person	Unsecured debt per person
2000	14,200	4,460
2001	15,120	4,910
2002	15,470	5,620
2003	16,070	6,100
2004	16,680	7,080

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the south east. [6257]

Mr. Des Browne: The Chancellor's Departments are implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 5,050 posts out of London and the south east by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some posts to relatively deprived areas in the south east. So far, the Departments have not identified any posts suitable for transfer to deprived areas in the south east.

Statistics (Hornsey and Wood Green)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average earnings of full-time employees in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency were in April *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [5723]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Ms Lynne Featherstone dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question what the average earnings of full time employees in Hornsey and Wood Green Constituency were in April *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. (5723)

Average earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay was unaffected by absence during the pay period, by their place of work. This is the standard definition used for Annual Survey of Hours and Earning tables. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings does not collect data on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach a table showing the average gross weekly earnings for full time employees in Hornsey and Wood Green Parliamentary Constituency from 2001 to 2004. This data is also available on the National Statistics website on table 9:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13101

Data for Hornsey and Wood Green for 1997 is not yet available from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, and data from the New Earnings Survey has been suppressed due to quality.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It has a one per cent sample of all employees.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings publication criteria ensure that all estimates are undisclosive. A number of estimates have been removed from the published tables for these reasons.

Gross weekly earnings (£), means and medians, for full-time employees in Hornsey and Wood Green parliamentary constituency, 2001–04

	Number of Jobs (thousand)	CV[1]	Median	CV[1]	Mean	CV[1]
2001	14	[2]11.1	382.9	[2]8.3	438.6	[2]5.7
2002	16	[2]11.1	398.1	[2]8.7	437.0	[2]5.4
2003	16	[2]11.1	422.2	[2]8.3	466.0	[2]4.9
2004						
exc[3]	14	[2]12.2	422.1	[2]9.9	479.2	[2]5.4
2004 inc[3]	14	[2]12.0	421.8	[2]9.7	474.4	[2]5.3

[1] Coefficient of Variation—measure of the deviation of a variable from its mean.
[2] Key to quality:
CV ⩽ 5%
CV > 5% and ⩽ 10%
CV > 10% and ⩽ 20%
x = unreliable
. = unavailable
.. = disclosive
: = not applicable
- = nil or negligible
[3] In 2004 a number of supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of ASHE. Data is presented for 2004 both including and excluding these supplementary surveys. The data excluding supplementary surveys enables a direct comparison to 2003.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners live in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency. [5724]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Ms Lynne Featherstone dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many pensioners live in Hornsey and Wood Green Constituency. (5724)

Mid-year population estimates on pensioners are not available for Parliamentary Constituencies. I have therefore provided figures taken from the 2001 Census.

The table below shows the number of pensioners living in Hornsey and Wood Green Constituency on Census day (29 April 2001). The figures have been extracted from Table CAS002 on the CD supplement to the Census 2001 Census Area Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies in England and Wales, which is available on request from Census Customer Services (census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk).

Pensioners living in Hornsey and Wood Green Constituency on Census day: 29 April 2001—England

	Number
All people	107,033
People of pensionale age[1]	13,039

[1] Pensionable age is 65 and over for males and 60 and over for females.
Source:
2001 Census Report for parliamentary constituencies

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Hornsey and Wood Green *(a)* received (i) child tax credit and (ii) working tax credit and *(b)* were estimated to be entitled to each on the latest date for which figures are available; what

the average monthly payment was in the last month for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [5719]

Dawn Primarolo: On *(a)*, estimates of the number of in-work families (broken down by families with and without children) in each region, local authority and constituency with tax credits for 2003–04 awards after finalisation appear in the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Geographical analyses." More recent provisional estimates for in-work families at selected dates in each such area appear in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics Geographical Analysis." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. Both publications can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

On *(b)*, estimates of numbers of families entitled to child and working tax credits are not available at a regional level. Estimates of average awards on a monthly basis are also not available. Estimates of average payments in each region, local authority and constituency for 2003–04 awards to families with children at 5 April 2004 after finalisation appear in "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics 2003–04 Geographical analyses." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. This publication can be found on the HMRC website at the above address.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the levels of long-term *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth unemployment were in Hornsey and Wood Green in each of the last eight years. [5720]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Ms Lynne Featherstone, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment in Hornsey and Wood Green in each of the last eight years. (5720)

Table 1 attached shows the numbers of long-term unemployed (over 12 months) and unemployed persons aged 16 to 24 resident in the Hornsey and Wood Green Parliamentary Constituency for each 12-month period ending in February each year from 1998 to 2004, the latest period for which data are available. This is based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

ONS also compiles statistics of those claiming jobseeker's allowance (ISA) for local areas. Table 2 attached shows the annual average number of ISA claimants claiming for over 12 months and the number of claimants aged 18–24 resident in the Hornsey and Wood Green constituency for each year from 1997 to 2004. The data in Table 2 are published on the ONS's Nomis website www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Unemployed people resident in the Hornsey and Wood Green constituency

Thousand

12 months ending February	*Youth (aged 16–24)*	*Over 12 month*
1998	1	n/a
1999	[1] —	2
2000	[1] —	1
2001	2	2
2002	1	1
2003	2	2
2004	1	1

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Zero or disclosive sample size.

Note:

These estimates are based on very small sample sizes and are subject to a very high degree of sampling variability. Changes from year-to-year, especially, should be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual local area Labour Force Survey

Table 2: JSA claimants resident in the Hornsey and Wood Green constituency

Annual averages	*Youth claimants (aged 18–24)* [1]	*All claimants for over 12 months* [1]
1997	1,030	2,205
1998	830	1,520
1999	680	1,370
2000	575	995
2001	520	560
2002	610	545
2003	665	605
2004	685	605

[1] Computerised claims only.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative system

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are in employment in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency; and how many were in employment in 1997. [5730]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Ms Lynne Featherstone, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about employment in Hornsey and Wood Green Constituency. (5730)

The number of people in employment, resident in the Hornsey and Wood Green Constituency for the 12 months ending 2004, the latest available period, is estimated at 53,000. The most appropriate corresponding figure, for the 12 months ending February 1998 is 49,000.

These estimates are based on annual local area Labour Force Survey data which, as with any sample survey, is subject to sampling variability.

The data are published on the Office for National Statistics Nomis(r) website: www.nomisweb.co.uk

Economic Forecasts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from economic forecasting organisations concerning prospects for the UK economy over the next five years. [5931]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 300W.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to adjust his growth forecasts. [5133]

John Healey: The Government's latest assessment of economic prospects was set out in Budget 2005 (HC 372). This assessment will be updated in the next Pre-Budget Report.

Retail Sector (Interest Rates)

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has evaluated on the effects of the level of interest rates on *(a)* retail sales and *(b)* the level of employment in the retail sector. [5132]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Interest rate policy is the province of the Bank of England and it is not appropriate for the Government to comment on interest rate decisions taken by the independent Monetary Policy Committee. Commentary on the relationship between interest rates and the performance of the retail sector is contained in the Bank of England's May Inflation Report, (section 2.1, "Why has consumer spending growth slowed?").

IR35

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the cost-effectiveness of IR35. [4854]

John Healey: The Intermediaries legislation, often referred to as IR35, is anti avoidance legislation and ensures that where individuals are working in a manner that would have been considered to be that of employment, had it not been for the use of an intermediary (such as a service company), they pay broadly the same amount of tax and NICs as a direct employee.

No data is held on administration and employment costs relating solely to this legislation as it is policed as part of HMRC's general employer compliance activity. HMRC does not routinely collect data in respect of specific types of employer obligations from the PAYE system. It is therefore not possible to isolate the increase in yield to the Exchequer arising from this legislation alone.

Iraq

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's most recent estimate is of the cost of the British presence in Iraq in each month since the start of the conflict, broken down by *(a)* military and *(b)* reconstruction costs. [4061]

Mr. Des Browne: The Treasury does not estimate costs for Iraq in the manner requested.

The Chancellor set aside £3 billion in Budget 2003 to cover the cost of operations in Iraq. In the PBR 2003 the Chancellor announced the remaining £2 billion of this special reserve would be carried forward to 2003–04. A further £500 million was set aside for the financial year 2003–04 and-a further £820 million for 2004–05 as a prudent allowance to cover Iraq and our continuing international commitment to the war on terrorism. In Budget 2005, a further £340 million was added to the special reserve for 2004–05 and £400 million for the special reserve in 2005–06.

The Ministry of Defence drew down £847 million in 2002–03 and £1,311 million in 2003–04 to cover the net additional costs of operations in Iraq. They drew down a further £975 million for Operations in Iraq in Spring Supplementary estimates for 2004–05.

At the Madrid Donors' Conference in October 2003, the Government announced a total UK pledge of £544 million towards the reconstruction effort in Iraq, of which DFID committed £380 million to date.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has discussed with members of the Paris Club the implications for private individuals and small businesses of rescheduling Iraqi debt. [6235]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Saddam Hussein regime paid its creditors little or nothing since August 1990, when United Nations Security Council resolution 660 came into force. The Paris Club of official creditors negotiated a debt deal with the Iraqi Government in November 2004. This treatment sought to restore Iraq's debt sustainability and to tailor Iraq's future debt payment schedule to its capacity to pay. Iraq has committed to negotiate settlements with non-Paris Club creditors on terms comparable to the Paris Club deal. Private individuals and small businesses will therefore benefit from Iraq's new willingness to service as much of its debt as it can reasonably afford.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with members of the Paris Club regarding the rescheduling of the Iraqi debt since 21 November 2004. [6234]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials have had a number of technical discussions regarding the implementation of the Paris Club's agreement with Iraq since 21 November 2004. All creditor positions are given in confidence.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Paris Club, while discussing the rescheduling of Iraqi debt, considered requiring the immediate payment in full to private individuals and small business creditors owed £250,000 or less. [6236]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A core principle of the Paris Club is that all non-preferred creditors should bear their proportionate share of the costs of any debt reduction or rescheduling. The Saddam Hussein regime paid its creditors little or nothing since August 1990. Creditors of Iraq who are private individuals and small businesses will therefore benefit from Iraq's new willingness to service as much of its debt as it can reasonably afford.

Deaths

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths have been recorded in the last 30 years which are attributable to magic mushroom use. [6227]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Dr. Iddon, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths have been recorded in the last 30 years which are attributable to magic mushroom use. (6227)

Available figures relate to deaths where the underlying cause was poisoning and a particular substance was mentioned on the death certificate, not the total number of deaths where the use of the substance in question was a contributory factor. The most recently available information is for deaths in 2003. Figures are not available prior to 1993 as this is the earliest year for which textual information is held on the Office for National Statistics statistical deaths database. Figures are shown in the table below for the calendar years 1993 to 2003.

Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning,[1] where psilocybin was mentioned on the death certificate,[2] England and Wales, 1993 to 2003[3]

	Number of deaths
1993	1
1994	0
1995	0
1996	0
1997	0
1998	0
1999	0
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 304, 305.2–305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5 for 1993 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14 from 2001 onwards.
[2] Drugs mentioned on the death certificate of a death where the underlying cause was drug poisoning.
[3] Data are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were in NHS hospitals in each year since 1997, broken down by month. [5942]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Steve Webb, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths there were in NHS hospitals in each year since 1997, broken down by month. (5942)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2003. The number of deaths which occurred in NHS general hospitals within England and Wales are given in the table below by month for the years 1997 to 2003.

Number of deaths in NHS general hospitals by month of occurrence of death, England and Wales, 1997–2003

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
January	35,138	26,353	33,500	35,103	28,244	30,452	28,624
February	24,604	23,955	24,485	24,400	24,307	24,303	24,926
March	23,758	26,110	24,904	23,891	26,536	25,863	26,595
April	22,930	24,912	22,729	23,142	23,925	24,214	25,617
May	22,854	23,441	22,408	22,605	24,023	23,585	24,830
June	21,604	21,875	21,662	21,893	22,206	23,119	22,364
July	21,660	22,246	21,480	22,252	22,482	23,103	22,903
August	21,101	21,894	21,694	21,425	22,009	22,606	23,714
September	21,464	21,786	21,202	21,175	22,357	22,599	22,637
October	23,304	21,592	23,136	23,159	22,896	24,677	24,812
November	23,395	23,729	23,141	23,589	23,696	23,984	26,645
December	25,566	30,379	32,027	25,706	26,779	27,497	28,873
Total	287,378	290,272	292,368	288,340	289,460	296,002	302,540

Note:
Figures are for deaths occurring in the years 1997 to 2003.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths have been recorded connected to the MRSA bug in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last five years, broken down by age group. [5843]

John Healey: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Dr. Ashol Kumar, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths have been recorded connected to the MRSA bug in Middlesbrough South and Cleveland constituency in the last five years; and how old the victims were. (5843)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2003. Fewer than 5 deaths occurred in the five year period 1999 to 2003 to residents of Middlesbrough South and Cleveland constituency where MRSA was a contributory factor[1] As there were fewer than 5 deaths over this period an age breakdown cannot be provided.

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004) Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993–2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21,15–22.

National Insurance Records

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many false national insurance records have been found in Coventry South in each year since 2000. [5171]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 294W.

Planning Gain

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the Government's plans to introduce a planning gain supplement. [5580]

John Healey: As set out in the March 2005 Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report, the Government will respond to the recommendations in the Barker Review of Housing Supply later this year.

Population (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population of *(a)* London and *(b)* Greater London has been in each year since 1975. [6369]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Lynne Featherstone, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the population of *(a)* London and *(b)* Greater London in each year since 1975. (6369)

The attached table provides population estimates for Inner London, Outer London and Greater London. The population of Greater London (or London Government Office Region) is the sum of the populations of Inner London and Outer London.

Mid-year population estimates: 1975 to 2003

Thousands

	Inner London	*Outer London*	*Greater London*
1975	2,815.7	4,363.3	7,179.0
1976	2,755.5	4,333.6	7,089.1
1977	2,705.0	4,307.0	7,012.0
1978	2,658.4	4,288.4	6,946.8
1979	2,617.6	4,270.0	6,887.6
1980	2,587.4	4,263.2	6,850.6
1981	2,550.1	4,254.9	6,805.0
1982	2,520.8	4,244.2	6,765.1
1983	2,517.9	4,235.1	6,753.0
1984	2,523.4	4,231.3	6,754.7
1985	2,531.9	4,235.1	6,767.0
1986	2,536.6	4,237.6	6,774.2
1987	2,540.6	4,224.9	6,765.6
1988	2,526.7	4,202.6	6,729.3
1989	2,542.2	4,209.3	6,751.6
1990	2,571.4	4,227.4	6,798.8
1991	2,599.3	4,230.0	6,829.3
1992	2,598.1	4,231.3	6,829.4
1993	2,601.7	4,242.8	6,844.5
1994	2,612.4	4,261.2	6,873.5
1995	2,628.6	4,284.5	6,913.1
1996	2,656.4	4,318.0	6,974.4
1997	2,672.4	4,342.5	7,014.8
1998	2,699.2	4,366.3	7,065.5
1999	2,750.7	4,403.2	7,153.9
2000	2,804.9	4,431.8	7,236.7
2001	2,859.4	4,463.0	7,322.4
2002	2,891.9	4,479.4	7,371.2
2003	2,904.6	4,483.3	7,387.9

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population of *(a)* London and *(b)* Greater London has been in each year since 1975. [5377]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Geoffrey Robinson, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the population of *(a)* London and *(b)* Greater London in each year since 1975. (5377)

The attached table provides population estimates for Inner London, Outer London and Greater London. The population of Greater London (or London Government Office Region) is the sum of the populations of Inner London and Outer London.

Mid-year population estimates: 1975 to 2003

Thousand

	Inner London	*Outer London*	*Greater London*
1975	2,815.7	4,363.3	7,179.0
1976	2,755.5	4,333.6	7,089.1
1977	2,705.0	4,307.0	7,012.0
1978	2,658.4	4,288.4	6,946.8
1979	2,617.6	4,270.0	6,887.6
1980	2,587.4	4,263.2	6,850.6
1981	2,550.1	4,254.9	6,805.0
1982	2,520.8	4,244.2	6,765.1
1983	2,517.9	4,235.1	6,753.0
1984	2,523.4	4,231.3	6,754.7
1985	2,531.9	4,235.1	6,767.0
1986	2,536.6	4,237.6	6,774.2
1987	2,540.6	4,224.9	6,765.6
1988	2,526.7	4,202.6	6,729.3
1989	2,542.2	4,209.3	6,751.6
1990	2,571.4	4,227.4	6,798.8
1991	2,599.3	4,230.0	6,829.3
1992	2,598.1	4,231.3	6,829.4
1993	2,601.7	4,242.8	6,844.5
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1997	2,672.4	4,342.5	7,014.8
1998	2,699.2	4,366.3	7,065.5
1999	2,750.7	4,403.2	7,153.9
2000	2,804.9	4,431.8	7,236.7
2001	2,859.4	4,463.0	7,322.4
2002	2,891.9	4,479.4	7,371.2
2003	2,904.6	4,483.3	7,387.9

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Primary Schools (Portsmouth)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many primary school-aged children there are expected to be in Portsmouth in each of the next five academic years. [5228]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Mike Hancock, dated 21 June 2005:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many primary school age children there are predicted to be in Portsmouth for the next five academic years. I am replying in his absence. (5228)

Official 2003-based Subnational Population Projections for England were published by the Office for National Statistics in November 2004. Table 1 shows the projected mid-year population of 5–11 year olds for Portsmouth taken from these projections.

Table 1: Portsmouth projected population of primary[1] school age children

	Thousand
2005	14.4
2006	14.2
2007	13.9
2008	13.8
2009	13.7
2010	13.6

[1] Primary school age defined as 5–11 year olds

Source:

ONS 2003-based Subnational population projections

Regulation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in implementing the Better Regulation Task Force's recommendation of targets for the reduction in the amount of bureaucracy in his Department. [5651]

John Healey: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in Budget 2005 the Government's acceptance in full of the Better Regulation Task Force's recommendations. The Chancellor published a Better Regulation Action Plan on 24 May 2005 which sets out details of the actions that the whole of the Government, including the Treasury, will take to implement these recommendations, and to implement the recommendations of the Hampton Review of regulatory inspection and enforcement. This stated that targets to reduce the administrative burden of regulation will be set by the 2006 pre-Budget report following a detailed exercise to measure the burden on business of administering regulations.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to improve HM Revenue and Customs' internal processes for the repayment of overpaid taxes to *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses. [5416]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs are regularly reviewing all their internal processes, including those relating to the repayment of overpaid taxes to individuals and businesses.

Tax Avoidance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to prevent tax avoidance by the rich; and if he will make such steps a priority area for action by his Department. [5841]

Dawn Primarolo: For the tax system to be effective, everyone needs to pay their fair share of taxes. Tax avoidance undermines the ability of the tax system to deliver its objectives, imposing significant costs on society. The Government have always made it clear their determination to ensure that the tax system is fair and is seen to be fair. The Government have taken a series of steps to prevent abuse of the tax system including structural reforms that make the system less vulnerable, closing loopholes in the law and improving the way HM Revenue and Customs delivers its compliance function. Paragraphs 5.99 to 5.101 of the Budget 2005 Red Book set out a series of further steps to improve direct tax compliance, those measures are included in the Finance (No.2) Bill 2005.

Tax Overpayments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total amount of overpayments for each tax for which information is available in each year since 1997; how much has since been repaid; and if he will make a statement. [6351]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs do not have an estimate of the amount of tax overpaid.

Details of the amounts repaid by HM Revenue and Customs are shown in the trust statements, which are published as part of the departmental annual accounts. The annual accounts are available for access via the Internet on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/ or by purchase through The Stationery Office.

The Customs and Excise figures are broken down into repayments of value added tax, alcohol duties, hydrocarbon oils, tobacco, betting and gaming, insurance premium tax, air passenger duty, landfill tax, climate change levy, aggregates levy, customs duties and agricultural duties.

The Inland Revenue figures are broken down into repayments of income tax, capital gains tax, corporation tax, inheritance tax, stamp taxes and petroleum revenue taxes

Taxation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the freeze on *(a)* the company car levy, *(b)* corporation tax, *(c)* insurance premium tax, *(d)* air passenger tax and *(e)* capital gains tax implemented in his last Budget. [5394]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of changes in taxation were announced by the Chancellor at the Budget. The Government keep all taxes under review and any changes are considered and announced in the normal Budget process.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many persons in Northern Ireland were taxed on the basis of incomes of over £1 million a year before allowances *(a)* in the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last 10 years. [5393]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the distribution of taxpayers by income would usually be derived from the Survey of Personal Incomes, but it is not possible to provide reliable figures for Northern Ireland due to sample sizes.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Government revenue was raised from personal taxation in the Reading, East constituency in the last financial year for which figures are available. [5418]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on regional or sub-regional income tax revenue statistics is not available pending a review of National Statistics on income tax and personal incomes. Further details of the review can

be found on the HMRC website at the following page: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/NS_Review.htm.

Published National Statistics on Parliamentary Constituencies can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/table-3-15.xls.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Claimants (Part-time Earnings)

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people declared part-time earnings while claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support in each of the last five years. [5556]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Income support (IS) under 60 and income-based jobseekers allowance (JSA(IB)) recipients with income declared from part-time/self-employed part-time earnings: Great Britain

November	All IS/ JSA(IB)	IS	JSA(IB)
2000	111,000	80,900	30,100
2001	101,600	79,700	21,900
2002	97,400	77,600	19,800
2003	91,900	73,500	18,400
2004	77,400	64,200	13,200

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures include claimants with part-time earnings and self-employed part-time earnings.
3. Figures include claimants in receipt of income-based JSA who would also be entitled to the contributory JSA element.
4. Figures are cases where the claimant or the partner declares part-time/self employed part-time earnings.
5. IS figures refer to cases where the claimant and partner (if applicable) are both under 60 i.e. figures exclude minimum income guarantee cases to be consistent with the IS figures post-October 2003.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples

Pensions

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Pension Service is taking to provide accurate pension forecasts. [4702]

Mr. Timms: The Pension Service provides State Pension forecasts based on the information held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs on an individual's National Insurance (NI) contribution record and, where appropriate, information provided by the customer when they request a forecast. A pension forecast, of any kind, is an estimate of future pension entitlement, not a guarantee.

The calculation of all pension forecasts is based upon current pensions legislation.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the pensions regulator has inherited all the functions and duties previously undertaken by the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority and the Occupational Pensions Board. [4777]

Mr. Timms: Section 7 of the Pensions Act 2004 transferred all the existing functions of the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA) to the Pensions Regulator with the exception of responsibility for the Pension Tracing Service which transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions on 6 April 2005.

As well as inheriting Opra's powers the Pensions Regulator will also have a range of new or increased powers to assist it in fulfilling its statutory objectives and functions as specified in the Pensions Act 2004—protecting members' benefits by making use of enhanced information-gathering powers to implement its risk-based approach to regulation.

The Occupational Pensions Board was replaced by the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority from 6 April 1997.

Social Security Office (Bournemouth)

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on *(a)* employees and *(b)* users of the Social Security Office in Cotlands Road, Bournemouth of its proposed closure as a processing centre; and if he will make a statement. [6124]

Margaret Hodge: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive, Leslie Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie to Sir John Butterfill, dated 21 June 2005:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning the impact upon employees and customers, with regard to the decision taken not to locate a Benefit Processing Centre at the Social Security Office situated in Cotlands Road, Bournemouth. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

It may be helpful if I explain that matters concerning the location of Benefit Processing Centres and the subsequent redeployment of staff are part of a nationally driven agenda to centralise benefit processing in 77 locations across the country. I can confirm that the management team for the Dorset and Somerset District are adhering closely to the Department for Work and Pensions Workforce Management Guidance' which provides a clear process to follow.

The Benefit Processing Management Team is currently working to re-deploy all staff in the vicinity. It is their expectation that there will be sufficient vacancies available within the Contact Centre sited in Poole, the Benefit Processing Centre to be located in Totton and in other government departments within the area. All staff will shortly have individual meetings with their line managers in order to discuss their own personal circumstances and needs, and to discuss any issues around relocation to other sites. Support for staff in coming to terms with the changes will be provided by Carefirst (soon to be replaced by Corecare from 1 July 2005) should it be required.

There is no expectation that the decision to locate benefit processing outside Bournemouth will have any adverse effect upon customer service. The processing centres will be providing 0845 local call rate numbers in order that customers are not disadvantaged by location, along with a 'freephone' number for Social Fund Crisis loan customers. Our face-to-face contact with customers will continued unchanged via the Jobcentre Plus Local Service Outlets.

You have my assurance that the decision taken not to base one of the 77 Processing Centres in Bournemouth was made following consideration of all of the facts and mindful of the impact upon both the staff and the customers at that location.

Bournemouth was not included in the list of those selected to deliver this service for several reasons. These include the difficulties identified with regard to estate issues, staff turnover rates and the re-deployment opportunities for benefit processing staff within the locality.

I hope this is helpful.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2–3W, on Africa, if he will rank African countries according to the measure of relative poverty in his Department's financial model. [5147]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development uses a financial model to help inform decisions on bilateral aid allocation to its programmes in low-income countries in each region. The model takes account of both the extent of a country's poverty and the likely effectiveness of aid in reducing poverty there. The amount of aid which a country is likely to receive from other donors is also taken into account.

Within the part of the model that takes account of the extent of a country's poverty, gross national income per capita, converted to dollars using purchasing power parity rates, is used as a proxy indicator of relative poverty. This data is drawn from the World Bank's World Development Indicators database.

The following table ranks African countries according to this measure. Data is shown for 2003, the latest year for which information is currently available.

Country	*GNI per capita 2003 ($, PPP)*
Sierra Leone	530.00
Malawi	590.00
Tanzania	620.00
Burundi	630.00
Congo, Democratic Republic	660.00
Guinea-Bissau	680.00
Ethiopia	710.00
Congo, Republic	730.00
Madagascar	800.00
Niger	830.00
Zambia	850.00
Nigeria	900.00
Mali	960.00
Eritrea	1,020.00
Kenya	1,030.00
Mozambique	1,060.00
Central African Republic	1,080.00
Chad	1,080.00
Benin	1,110.00
Burkina Faso	1,170.00
Rwanda	1,290.00
Côte d'Ivoire	1,400.00
Uganda	1,430.00
Senegal	1,620.00
Togo	1,640.00
Comoros	1,720.00
Gambia, The	1,740.00
Sudan	1,760.00
Mauritania	1,870.00
Angola	1,910.00
Cameroon	1,990.00
Guinea	2,080.00
Djibouti	2,140.00
Ghana	2,190.00
Lesotho	3,100.00
Egypt, Arab Republic	3,940.00
Morocco	3,940.00
Swaziland	4,850.00
Cape Verde	5,130.00
Gabon	5,500.00
Algeria	5,930.00
Namibia	6,660.00
Tunisia	6,850.00
Botswana	8,370.00
South Africa	10,130.00
Mauritius	11,280.00
Equatorial Guinea	n/a
Liberia	n/a
Libya	n/a
Vlayotte	n/a
Sao Tome and Principe	n/a
Seychelles	n/a
Somalia	n/a
Zimbabwe	n/a

Source:
World Development Indicators 2005

Algeria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government have given to Algeria since 1992. [5406]

Hilary Benn: From 1992–93 to 2004–05 inclusive, the Government have given Algeria £36.2 million in bilateral aid. This includes £34.4 million of CDC investments in 2003–04 when there were two large investments of £12 million and £19 million.

In addition, the UK's imputed share of EC aid to Algeria over the period 1992 to 2002 inclusive is £69.9 million.

Tsunami

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much of the Government's aid for victims of the Asian tsunami *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* remains held in reserve; [5206]

(2) how projects working with victims of the Asian tsunami may apply for funding from the aid allocated by the UK Government; [5208]

(3) if he will list the projects on which UK Government aid for the Asian tsunami has been spent; [5209]

(4) on what UK Government aid for victims of the Asian tsunami has been spent; and through which agencies. [5207]

Mr. Thomas: Nearly £67 million out of the £75 million allocated to meet immediate relief needs has been programmed through United Nations agencies, the Red Cross Movement and non-governmental organisations and DFID direct action. So far £60 million of this has been disbursed. The balance will be drawn down by the recipient agencies as needed. The balance of the £75 million allocation has been earmarked for disaster risk reduction initiatives in affected countries.

DFID has also allocated up to £65 million to meet reconstruction needs. These funds will be channelled through trust funds managed by the affected governments, as the best way to ensure an effective and

co-ordinated response to needs. Organisations wishing to apply for support to reconstruction projects should approach the relevant government department directly. As all of the money allocated to meet immediate relief needs has either been programmed or is committed, it is no longer possible for organisations to apply to DFID for this assistance. I have arranged for the document entitled 'A Breakdown of DFID's Immediate Relief Assistance in Response to The Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami' to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Colombia

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in the Narino region of Colombia. [4982]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is aware of the displacement of around 1,000 people in Narino State over the past three months following fighting between security forces and illegal armed groups. DFID has consulted the United Nations high commission for refugees (UNHCR) about needs and possible support. The UNHCR are continuing to monitor the situation and while they have raised the need to improve the access of displaced to humanitarian assistance they have advised that at this time they are not appealing for funds.

Forests

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what net percentage of forest cover worldwide has been lost since 1990; and what acreage this represents, broken down by country. [4456]

Mr. Thomas: The net percentage of forest cover lost worldwide between 1990 and 2000 was 2.37 per cent. This represents the change in forest cover over the ten-year period to 2000 and is the most up-to-date global assessment of forest resources.

In terms of acreage, this represents a total worldwide loss in forest cover of 232, 214,811 acres (93,974,000 hectares).

Forest cover data for individual countries may be found in the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 main report. This is published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and is available online via the following web link: http://www.fao.org/forestry/fo/fra/main/index.isp.

Please see as follows, a table summarising the current global data available for forest resources by region.

Forest resources by region

	Forest area 2000						*Area change 1990–2000 (total forest)*	
	Land area	*Natural forest*	*Forest plantation*	*Total forest*				
Region	*Ha*	*Ha*	*Ha*	*Ha*	*Percentage*	*Ha/capita*	*Ha/year*	*Percentage*
Africa	2,978,394	641,830	8,036	649,866	21.8	0.8	-5,262	-0.8
Asia	3,084,746	431,946	115,847	547,793	17.8	0.2	-364	-0.1
Europe	2,259,957	1,007 236	32,015	1,039,251	46.0	1.4	881	0.1
North and Central America and the Caribbean	2,136,966	531, 771	17,533	549,304	25.7	1.1	-570	-0.1
Oceania	849, 096	194,775	2,848	197,623	23.3	6.6	-365	-0.2
South America	1,754, 741	875,163	10,455	885,618	50.5	2.6	-3 .711	-0.4
Total world	13,063,900	3,682,722	186,733	3,869,455	29.6	0.6	-9,391	-0.2

Ministerial Meetings (EU Trade Commissioner)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the EU Trade Commissioner on *(a)* UK policy towards the G8 talks, *(b)* the UN Millennium Development Council, *(c)* trade talks during the UK's EU presidency and *(d)* the forthcoming World Trade Organisation's talks in China this December. [3635]

Hilary Benn: I have held discussions with both the Trade and Development Commissioners about the significance of trade for development, including our hopes for the G8 summit, the Millennium Review Summit and the World Trade Organisation Ministerial in December, where we will continue to work closely with the European Commission to achieve our shared objective, namely an outcome that delivers real development gains for the world's poor. The Department for International Development also has regular discussions with officials at all levels in the Trade Directorate, as well as those responsible for Trade issues in the Development and Agriculture Directorates.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4119]

Mr. Thomas: DFID currently has 1,409 laptop computers currently in use. These are all allocated to officials, none are used by Ministers or special advisors.

DFID does not keep records of the number of laptop computers in use in previous years. The number of laptop computers purchased in each financial year since 1995 are as follows:

Financial year	*Laptops purchased*
1995–96	57
1996–97	185
1997–98	121
1998–99	125
1999–2000	148

Financial year	Laptops purchased
2000–01	265
2001–02	251
2002–03	734
2003–04	900
2004–05	270

The numbers of laptop computers lost and stolen in each financial year since 1995 are shown in the following table. All losses and thefts of IT equipment in DFID are investigated and reported according to Government accounting rules.

	Lost	Stolen
1995–96	0	2
1996–97	0	2
1997–98	0	2
1998–99	0	0
1999–2000	0	3
2000–01	0	8
2001–02	0	3
2002–03	2	7
2003–04	0	7
2004–05	0	4

Laptop computers are used as an integral part of the DFID IT systems. It is not possible to separate the cost of use of laptop computers from other IT costs.

Nicaragua

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received concerning reports that the Nicaraguan Government has been allocating funds received from the IMF for poverty alleviation projects to service internal debts; and if he will make a statement. [4006]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's office in Nicaragua has received representations from representatives of Nicaraguan civil society about the use of funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by the Government of Nicaragua.

The IMF does not finance specific projects. Rather, it transfers funds in support of an overall government budget that is consistent with agreements reached between that government and the IMF about what is needed to achieve economic stability and reduce poverty. The IMF's funds are merged with the government's own funds (e.g. tax revenue) and used to finance the planned expenditure as a whole, rather than any specific components.

At issue are the appropriate levels of domestic debt servicing by the Nicaraguan Government (GoN) and the adequacy of expenditure on items that help reduce poverty.

The representations made relate to two elements of GoN's internal debt:

(i) Government backed deposits in several banks that collapsed after fraudulent mismanagement a few years ago under the Arnoldo Aleman administration; and

(ii) bonds issued to pay US citizen property owners for property confiscated under the land reform of the 1980s.

Payment of these debts, and the associated legislation to enable stronger regulation of the banking sector, are required if Nicaragua is to be able to create a climate where sustained poverty reduction and economic growth can take place. Furthermore, they have not prevented the Government of Nicaragua from increasing expenditure on poverty reducing programmes from 10.8 per cent. of Gross National Product in 2003 to 12.2 per cent. in 2004. The Government's budget for 2005 continues this trend. However, the National Assembly have allocated increased expenditure to a range of subsidies, many of which do not reduce poverty, which threaten macro-economic stability and the Government's ability to maintain its plans to increase poverty reducing expenditure.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Audiologists

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are to increase the number of audiologists in the Province. [5355]

Mr. Woodward: The recruitment of staff, including audiologists, is a matter for individual health and social services trusts taking into account factors such as service needs and available resources. However, during the 2003–04 financial year, the Department provided funding for additional audiologists and it has been confirmed that 14.5 additional posts were created and these have been filled.

The position will be monitored through the Department's ongoing work force planning mechanism.

Government Circulars

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what equality impact assessment was conducted on Circular HSS (Gen) (2) 2005. [5248]

Mr. Woodward: Circular HSS (Gen) (2) 2005 was not subjected to an equality impact assessment. The information contained in that circular replicates the public holidays in Northern Ireland as published by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Community Hospitals

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to expand community hospital provision in Northern Ireland; and how much funding was provided to each community hospital in Northern Ireland in each of the past three years. [5499]

Mr. Woodward: The development of community hospital provision is central to our plans for the modernisation of hospital services. The new local hospital in Downpatrick is scheduled to open in 2008; business cases for new local hospitals in a number of other locations are being prepared. In addition we are taking forward plans to modernise the primary and community care infrastructure to improve further the quality and range of service available within local communities.

Departmental funding is allocated to health and social services boards under an agreed capitation formula, which recognises the healthcare needs of the populations within each board area. It is for boards to allocate their resources to meet health and social care priorities within their own board area. Details of allocations to specific community hospitals are not, therefore, collected centrally.

Complaints Procedure (NHS/Care Homes)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the complaints procedure is for those in *(a)* private care homes and *(b)* NHS facilities in the Province. [5331]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

(a) Independent homes have a regulatory requirement to provide advice to all residents (including private residents) on how to make a complaint and who to contact outside the home if they remain dissatisfied. The complaints procedure for a resident placed in an independent home by an Health and Social Services Trust is the Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) Complaints procedure entitled: "Complaints Listening . . . Acting . . . Improving: Guidance on Handling HPSS Complaints: Hospital and Community Health and Social Services" issued 2000.

(b) The same complaints procedure is available to a resident in a statutory home.

Creagh Youth Centre

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) was paid by Castlereagh borough council for Creagh Youth Centre; and whether the SEELB has claimed the whole sum due to it from Castlereagh borough council. [5636]

Angela E. Smith: No capital monies have yet been paid by Castlereagh borough council to the South-Eastern Education and Library Board for Cregagh Youth Centre and, therefore, their full contribution of £400,000 towards total capital costs of approximately £800,000 remains outstanding.

Digital Hearing Aids

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of providing a digital hearing aid on the NHS in the Province is, broken down by *(a)* assessment, *(b)* fitting, *(c)* follow-up and *(d)* purchase of the aid. [5351]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Early-years Education

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many free *(a)* nursery and *(b)* pre-school places were available for (i) three and (ii) four-year-olds in the Province in each of the last five years. [5304]

Angela E. Smith: The number of places in the statutory nursery and voluntary/private sectors in each of the last five academic years was as follows:

Academic year	*Nursery places*	*Voluntary/private places*
2000–01	12,148	4409
2001–02	13,292	6000
2002–03	14,280	6034
2003–04	14,280	6093
2004–05	14,150	5968

Pre-school places in the statutory sector are, as has been the case since the early 1970s, open to children from two-years-old to the lower limit of compulsory school age. In all cases, however, applications from children in their immediate pre-school year are given priority ahead of younger children. The funded provision secured in the voluntary/private sector is only open to children in their immediate pre-school year (children aged between three-years and two-months and four-years and two-months). The regulations made by the Department of Education require providers, in allocating funded pre-school places, to give priority to specified target groups. One of the specified target groups is the oldest children in the final pre-school cohort (those with July and August birthdays) who are the only children who are actually aged four when they enter their final pre-school year.

English as an Additional Language

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will earmark specific funding for the delivery of English as an Additional Language service. [5523]

Angela E. Smith: Each of the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) has already received earmarked funding from the Department on a per capita basis to help meet the needs of pupils in respect of English as an Additional Language (EAL). The Department's total earmarked budget is £420,000 for the 2005–06 financial year.

In addition, DE has increased overall EAL funding, by introducing in 2005–06 within the Local Management of Schools (LMS) Common Funding Formula a specific factor which provides support to schools for each EAL pupil. This factor provides some £1.7 million to schools across the five ELBs in recognition of the additional costs associated with EAL pupils which are encountered at school level. It is designed to enhance the level of support for EAL pupils. This forms part of the total funding made available to all schools under the LMS delegated funding arrangements and decisions on how to use this funding are a matter for individual Boards of Governors.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees working for Invest Northern Ireland are in pay bands of *(a)* £70,000 and over, *(b)* £50,000 to £70,000, *(c)* £30,000 to £50,000 and *(d)* under £30,000 per annum. [5547]

Angela E. Smith: Invest NI staff fall into the following salary bands:

Salary bands	*Number of staff*
(a) £70,000 and over	6
(b) £60,000-£70,000	3
(c) £50,000-£60,000	15
(d) £40,000-£50,000	61
(e) £30,000-£40,000	159
(f) £20,000-£30,000	161
(g) Under £20,000	261

Salaries for part-time staff (of whom there are 54) have been shown as the full time equivalent.

Invest NI also engages a varying number of contracted staff, in its overseas offices and to deliver specific programmes in Northern Ireland. These currently number 44 and are separately funded. Invest NI has the following number of contracted staff in each of the salary bands:

	Number of contracted staff
(a) £70,000 and over	1
(b) £60,000-£70,000	0
(c) £50,000-£60,000	2
(d) £40,000-£50,000	7
(e) £30,000-£40,000	10
(f) £20,000-£30,000	11
(g) Under £20,000	13

Language, Culture and Heritage Funding

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public sector funding has been allocated to promote *(a)* Ulster Scots and *(b)* Irish Gaelic (i) language, (ii) culture and (iii) heritage in each year since 2001. [5349]

Mr. Hanson: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) jointly funds the Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge, the Irish Language Agency. The Ulster-Scots Agency has a statutory remit to promote Ulster-Scots language and culture. Foras na Gaeilge has a statutory remit to promote the Irish language.

The budgets allocated to the Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge by DCAL since 2001 are detailed in the following table.

£ million

Budget (STG)	*Foras na Gaeilge (Irish Language Agency)*	*Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch (Ulster-Scots Agency)*
2001	2.53	0.97
2002	2.64	1.07
2003	2.850	1.155
2004	3.224	[1]1.277
2005	3.242	1.327

[1] The Ulster-Scots Agency received additional funding of £60,000 in 2004 from DCAL.

Note:
These figures are based on the calendar year.

Estimated funding for the Irish Language Broadcasting fund and Ulster-Scots Academy for 2005 is detailed in the following table.

2005

	Estimate (£)
Irish Language Broadcast Fund	3,000,000
Ulster Scots Academy	500,000

Funding is also available from departmental mainstream programmes for projects, which may have an Irish or Ulster-Scots language or culture dimension, which cannot be separated from the primary funding objectives.

ME

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will provide funding for biomedical research into myalgic encephalomyelitis. [5740]

Mr. Woodward: Research into diseases like myalgic encephalomyelitis needs to be undertaken in specialised centres of excellence and co-ordinated at the national level. The R and D strategy for the health and personal social services, in common with other NHS R and D strategies, do not generally allocate funds for this type of research, but funding for research into myalgic encephalomyelitis has been made available from sources such as the Medical Research Council.

NHS Direct

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps he has taken to extend NHS Direct to Northern Ireland. [5501]

Mr. Woodward: In Northern Ireland each of the four health and social services boards currently operate their own daytime telephone advice line. Out-of-hours providers for which each board is responsible deliver access to advice and services outside normal office hours. The Department is working with the four boards to consider further development of these services on a regional basis.

NHS Staff Assaults

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland *(a)* how many incidents of violence were recorded against NHS staff in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available, and *(b)* how many people were prosecuted as a result. [5510]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

(a) There were 5,449 violent incidents against staff employed in the health and personal social services between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005.

(b) Seven people were prosecuted as a result of these incidents and four prosecution cases are pending.

Obesity

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in the Province are assessed as (i) obese and (ii) overweight. [5330]

Mr. Woodward: The 1997 Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey provides the most recent estimate of overweight and obesity levels among adults aged 16-plus in Northern Ireland. The survey found that

48 per cent. of men and 32 per cent. of women were overweight, while a further 17 per cent. of men and 20 per cent. of women were obese. When combined, the survey found that 65 per cent. of males and 52 per cent. of females were either overweight or obese.

Olympic Bid

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport about the role Northern Ireland would play should the London bid to host the Olympic Games in 2012 be successful. [5515]

Mr. Hanson: There is regular liaison with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in support of the London Bid and to maximise the opportunities for Northern Ireland who are also represented in the Nations and Regions Committee.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of how Northern Ireland may benefit should the London bid to host the Olympic games in 2012 be successful. [5516]

Mr. Hanson: If London wins the bid to stage the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2012 it will have the potential to leave a lasting legacy of community facilities across the UK and inspire greater participation in sport.

The whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland, could also anticipate benefits through volunteering, hosting of pre-games preparation camps, increase in tourism, increased awareness of the benefits of participating in sport, economic and business procurement opportunities. I would also hope that competitors from Northern Ireland would participate in the games.

In Northern Ireland a Regional Co-ordinating group has been established to raise awareness of the bid and to consider how to maximise benefits arising from a successful bid.

Education (Out-of-school Provision)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has to support out-of-school provision in Northern Ireland. [5956]

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to allocate funding for the expansion of out-of-schools provision in Northern Ireland. [5529]

Angela E. Smith: There are no mainstream funds available to support an out-of-schools programme in Northern Ireland; such support could only be made from within the Northern Ireland block and at the expense of other services including mainstream classroom funding.

My Department is, however, pursuing a number of developments along similar lines, such as full service (extended) schools, education action zones and provision within the Belfast Board area that will be supported through the Integrated Development Fund. All these envisage schools as the learning hubs of their communities, supporting and encouraging provision throughout the extended school day. Breakfast clubs, homework clubs, sports and a range of other activities are already offered in many schools before and after school hours.

Under the PEACE II Programme extension 2004–06 out of school childcare provision and other activities can continue to be supported under Measure 1.5, Positive Action for Women.

Parades Commission

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much it has cost to operate the Parades Commission in each year since its formation. [5519]

Mr. Woodward: This information is readily available in the annual reports of the Parades Commission, which are available in the Library, or alternatively can be downloaded from the Parades Commission website, www.paradescommission.org, and detail the Commission's operating costs for each year since its inception.

Police Service

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the earliest date is by which he expects to be able to end the 50:50 recruitment procedure for entry into the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [4832]

Mr. Woodward: In line with the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Policing, it is our aim to achieve, by 2010–11, a composition within the PSNI regulars which includes 30 per cent. from a Catholic community background. I am happy to say that we are well on target to reach this goal.

The 50:50 recruitment provisions are subject to triennial review with the current order allowing for their continuation until 30 March 2007. Their renewal will be subject to a widespread consultation process and debates in both Houses.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that people employed by the Police Service in Northern Ireland as cleaning staff have the same terms and conditions of service after the review of cleaning services is concluded. [5546]

Mr. Woodward: The terms and conditions of service of cleaning staff is a matter for the chief constable however I am assured that the outsourcing of this function will be managed within the TUPE framework.

Pupil Behaviour

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children are defined as having behavioural problems in the South East Education and Library Board area; and if he will make a statement. [5327]

Angela E. Smith: There were 1,477 children on special educational needs registers with emotional and behavioural difficulties attending schools and pre-school centres in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area in 2004–05.

Information about the number of pupils with behavioural problems who fall below the threshold for inclusion on a school's special educational needs register is not held centrally. However, support for pupils into this category will be re-considered shortly. The Department is awaiting a report from Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), on the operation and effectiveness of the Boards' Behaviour Support teams, which were established in 1998–99 to support schools in managing this group of pupils. The findings will inform a decision on the future direction of this service and whether a major review is necessary.

The ETI issued another report in 2004 on "Provision for Pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties and Persistent and Challenging Behaviours in Special Schools in NI", which highlighted problems in this area. DE has subsequently made available additional resources to the Boards to help address these issues.

Road Building

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new road building projects in Northern Ireland are scheduled for the next five years; and what the anticipated cost of the construction is. [5528]

Mr. Woodward: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady, in response to this question.

Letter from Malcolm McKibbin to Lady Hermon, dated 21 June 2005:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding "how many new road building projects in Northern Ireland are scheduled for the next five years; and what the anticipated cost of the construction is."

I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service.

Roads Service defines major road projects as those where the scheme costs are estimated to exceed £1.0m. These schemes are referred to as Strategic Road Improvements (SRIs). Roads Service manages the delivery of SRIs through the following programmes:

Construction Programme—Schemes already under construction.

Preparation Pool—High priority schemes that Roads Service is committed to progressing through the statutory procedures of Environmental Appraisal, Direction Order (equivalent to planning approval) and Land Vesting. Preparation Pool schemes are expected to be implemented within the next 5 years or so (subject to clearing the statutory procedures, having a satisfactory economic appraisal and the availability of funds at the time).

Forward Planning Schedule—Schemes that perform well when assessed at feasibility stage and which are expected to be implemented within the next 10 years or so (subject to clearing the statutory procedures, having a satisfactory economic appraisal and the availability of funds at the time).

Therefore, schemes currently held in the Preparation Pool are the most likely to be implemented within the next 5 years (subject to clearing the statutory procedures, having a satisfactory economic appraisal and the availability of funds at the time). The table attached presents brief details of the 22 schemes currently held in the Preparation Pool, the cost of which is estimated to cost £476.7m.

I hope this information is helpful.

Major works preparation pool June 2005

Scheme name	*Description*	*Estimate (£ million)*
M1/Westlink	Widen 4.0 km M1 motorway and Westlink to 3 lanes in each direction with 2 new grade separated junctions	75.0
M2 Crosskennan slips	2No. on-slips onto M2 at Antrim Area Hospital	2.0
M2 Widening (Sandyknowes to Greencastle)	Additional lane on the Belfast bound carriageway from Sandyknowes Junction to Greencastle interchange, also 3 lanes through Greencastle interchange in northbound direction, includes replacement of 3No. overbridges	29.0
A1 Beechill to Cloghogue	12.1 km dual carriageway with GS junctions	102.0
A1 Junctions	4No. compact grade-separated junctions at Hillsborough, Dromore, Banbridge and Loughbrickland	16.0
A4 Dungannon to Ballygawley Dualling	20.5 km dual carriageway between Dungannon (end of dual carriageway) and Ballygawley roundabout, including 6 grade-separated junctions	102.0
A4/A5 Improvements	A4 Annaghilla—3.2 km single carriageway realignment; A5 Tullyvar—3.1 km single carriageway realignment	15.7
Cairnshill Park and Ride	Provision of 700–800 space park and ride site with terminus building	10.0
Skeoge Link (revised), Londonderry	1.9 km four-lane carriageway link road	[1]5.3
A6 Dualling (M22 to Castledawson Roundabout)	12.6 km dual carriageway either side of Toome Bypass	[2]34.02
A20 Frederick Street Link, Newtownards	0.3 km single carriageway link road	1.1
A2 Broadbridge Dualling	6.75 km dual carriageway between Maydown Roundabout and City of Derry Airport	[2]19.8
A32 Cherrymount Link	1.1 km single carriageway link road	3.8
A4 Henry Street/Sligo Road Enniskillen	Additional traffic lane on approach to junction	1.1
A55 Knock Road, Belfast	0.62 km four lane carriageway between Clarawood and Kings Road	4.3
A514 Crescent Link, Londonderry	1.9 km dual carriageway (completing the dualling of Crescent Link)	4.6
A29 Carland Bridge	1.3 km single carriageway realignment	4.0
A20 Newtownards Southern Distributor	2.0 km link road from Blair Mayne Road South to Comber Road to Portaferry Road	[1]1.5

Major works preparation pool June 2005

Scheme name	*Description*	*Estimate (£ million)*
A5 Strabane Bypass Stage 3	1.0 km single carriageway bypass extension	2.9
A26/M2 Ballee Road East	1 .5 km of dual carriageway with two slip roads	6.1
A3 Armagh North and West Link Road	3.8 km single carriageway link road to the Portadown Road	15.4
A2 Shore Road	2.4 km four-lane carriageway from Jordanstown to Greenisland.	21.1
Total cost of Preparation Pool schemes	476.7	

[1] Scheme estimate excludes developer contribution.
[2] Scheme estimate at 2002 prices—under revision.

School Buildings

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much investment in new school building in Northern Ireland there has been in each year since 1997. [5433]

Angela E. Smith: Since 1997, 201 major capital projects with an estimated capital cost of £1,044 million, have been announced for schools throughout Northern Ireland. This investment has been provided for the building of new schools, for major extensions and refurbishments of schools and for site purchase, where necessary. The figures represent the estimated capital costs of both conventionally funded and Public Private Partnership schemes and the spending takes place over a number of years following the announcement. The total investment is as follows:

	Projects	*£ million*
1997	10	23.1
1998	11	63.2
1999	16	67.1
2000	18	72.2
2001	29	158
2002	31	167.6
2003	43	270.8
2004	43	222.2
Total	201	1,044.2

A further sum of £55.6 million has been invested since 1997 for the construction and development of new Grant Maintained Integrated schools. A breakdown of the funding that was spent in each year is as follows:

	New schools	*£ million*
1997	3	7.7
1998	2	10.5
1999	2	11.4
2000	1	8.6
2001	0	2.0
2002	2	5.0
2003	1	7.2
2004	1	3.2
Total	12	55.6

School Exclusions

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils were excluded from schools in the Province in each of the last 10 years; and what the reasons were. [5306]

Angela E. Smith: The information that the Department holds about the number of pupils expelled and suspended from schools is as follows:

Number

	Expulsions	*Suspensions*
1995–96	62	n/a
1996–97	79	n/a
1997–98	80	n/a
1998–99	73	n/a
1999–2000	83	n/a
2000–01	80	4,740
2001–02	76	5,099
2002–03	70	5,282
2003–04	71	5,485

The reasons for suspension have been collected from 2002–03 school year and for expulsions from 2003–04 school year. Both sets of information are available on the Department's website at www.deni.gov.uk/facts_figures/education_stats/index_other.htm. However, the detailed suspension data for 2003–04 submitted by one of the five Education and Library Boards has still to be fully analysed. When this has been done in the near future, the information on the website will be updated.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the criteria are for determining eligibility for interface funding for schools in North Belfast. [5432]

Angela E. Smith: The criteria for selecting schools to receive funding was restricted to a small number of schools in the area which had been most affected by community difficulties, including on occasions violent incidents against both pupils and the school environment.

Small Businesses

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many small businesses given start-up funding by his Department in each of the past five years have since ceased operation. [5512]

Angela E. Smith: During the past five years, 746 businesses were offered start-up assistance, through schemes directly provided by Invest NI, and its predecessor agency the Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU). Of these, 57 are recorded by Invest NI to have ceased trading. The detail by year is presented in Table 1:

Table 1: Number of business starts offered assistance directly by Invest NI, and LEDU

	Businesses offered start-up assistance	*Number ceased trading*
2000–01	171	18
2001–02	165	19

Table 1: Number of business starts offered assistance directly by Invest NI, and LEDU

	Businesses offered start-up assistance	*Number ceased trading*
2002–03	149	16
2003–04	144	4
2004–05	117	0
Total	746	57

In addition to these, there were 10,895 new businesses provided with assistance through the Start a Business Programme (SABp) jointly administered by Invest NI and Enterprise Northern Ireland. Details for each year are provided in Table 2:

Table 2: Number of businesses assisted through the SABp

	Businesses assisted through the Start a Business Programme	*Ceased trading estimate*
2000–01	1,203	193
2001–02	1,269	203
2002–03	1,983	317
2003–04	2,637	422
2004–05	3,803	n/a
Total	10,895	1,135

Evidence provided by a recent evaluation of the programme indicates that 1,135 of those assisted up to March 2004, will have ceased trading. Figures for 2004–05 are not yet available.

South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many job losses among *(a)* administration staff, *(b)* school crossing patrol personnel, *(c)* classroom assistants, *(d)* teachers and *(e)* other ancilliary staff will be incurred within the South Eastern Education and Library Board Area due to the cutbacks the board have initiated; and if he will make a statement. [4071]

Angela E. Smith: Verifiable information is not available at this stage.

Special Educational Needs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the primary causes of need of children in the Province with special educational needs are. [5307]

Angela E. Smith: The most prevalent causes of need in 2004–05 are as follows:

	Number of children
Moderate Learning Difficulties	20,295
Speech and Language Difficulties	8,825
Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties	6,942
Dyslexia	3,837
Physical Disability	2,244

Voluntary and Community Group Funding

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures he is taking to place the funding of voluntary and community groups and organisations on a more long-term and sustainable basis. [5348]

Mr. Hanson: A number of Government initiatives have already moved to longer-term strategic investment in communities. "Positive steps", Government's response to the report of the Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector, gives a commitment that

> "Government would actively promote a longer-term (7–10 year) outcome focused approach to programmes that significantly involve the voluntary and community sector."

This move towards longer-term investment will require change both within Government and in the voluntary and community sector. To help the voluntary and community sector with this change, I have established a "Modernisation Fund" to promote change and strengthen the service delivery role of organisations. In addition, funding will be made available to support capital projects delivered through the voluntary and community sector which will help develop the physical infrastructure and asset base of the sector improving delivery of services on a more sustainable basis.

The Department for Social Development (DSD), through its "People and Place" Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, is providing a framework for a longer-term, seven-ten year, approach to delivering strategic objectives. However, longer-term outcome focussed funding will take time to achieve and needs to be considered in the context of the budgetary planning process. DSD monitor and evaluate performance in moving towards longer-term outcomes with regular reviews at least every three years.

DSD continues to provide ongoing support to the voluntary and community sector this amounts to over £40 million across the next three years.

Hospital Waiting Times

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action is being taken to reduce waiting times for *(a)* orthopaedic and *(b)* orthodontic procedures in Northern Ireland. [5739]

Mr. Woodward: While there has been some progress to reduce waiting times for orthopaedic and orthodontic procedures, I am still concerned at the length of time patients have to wait in Northern Ireland and I am currently considering actions to address this. I hope to make an announcement on this shortly.

Walk-in Health Centres

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce walk-in health centres in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [5335]

Mr. Woodward: The functions of NHS walk-in centres, as established in Great Britain, will be provided in Northern Ireland by health and care centres, which bring together a range of primary and community-based care services into a 'one stop shop', and local hospitals, as defined in "Developing Better Services". Work is

currently in progress on the building of three of these centres in Belfast. Plans for a network of similar centres across Northern Ireland are currently being developed by HSS boards and trusts.

HEALTH

Ambulances (CCTV)

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ambulance trusts use CCTV inside *(a)* all and *(b)* some of their ambulances. [4402]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not collated centrally.

Anti-depressants

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients under the age of 18 years have been prescribed anti-depressants in each of the last 10 years. [4524]

Jane Kennedy: Data from the Prescription Pricing Authority indicates that, in 2004, 192,000 prescription items were dispensed in the community in England for antidepressant drugs to children under 16 and young people aged 16 to 18 in full-time education. Data is not collected on the number of people for whom these prescriptions were dispensed, nor the proportion which they represent.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has issued on the prescribing of anti-depressants to *(a)* children and *(b)* adolescents. [4633]

Jane Kennedy: No anti-depressant is currently licensed for the treatment of depressive illness in children or adolescents under 16 years of age.

Based on the work of its expert working group on the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), the committee on safety of medicines (CSM) issued advice on the use of SSRIs in children and adolescents in June, September and December 2003. That advice was that the balance of risks and benefits for the treatment of depressive illness in under-18s is judged to be unfavourable for paroxetine (Seroxat), venlafaxine (Efexor), sertraline (Lustral), citalopram (Cipramil), escitalopram (Cipralex) and mirtazapine (Zispin). It is not possible to assess the balance of risks and benefits for fluvoxamine (Faverin), due to the absence of paediatric clinical trial data. Only fluoxetine (Prozac) has been shown in clinical trials to be effective in treating depressive illness in children and adolescents, although it is possible that, in common with the other SSRIs, it is associated with a small increased risk of self-harm and suicidal thoughts. Overall, the balance of risks and benefits for fluoxetine in the treatment of depressive illness in under-18s is judged to be favourable. This advice was reiterated in December 2004, when the report of the expert working group was published.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is developing a guideline on the identification and management of depression in children and young people in primary, community and secondary care, which is due to be published in September 2005.

Barnet Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on performance against targets for accident and emergency waiting times at Barnet hospital in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* the last month. [3265]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested. Performance figures for Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital National Health Service Trust for 2004–05, giving the percentage of patients who spend less than fours hours in accident and emergency, are shown in table 1.

Table 1

Quarter	*Percentage*
1	90.3
2	92.7
3	90.7
4	93.3

The overall percentage for 2004–05 is 91.7.

These are the latest figures available.

These figures include a proportion of accident and emergency services which are provided by its partner primary care trust (PCT). 73 per cent. of Barnet PCTs performance is mapped to Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust.

Table 2 shows the performance of the trust against various targets.

The NHS target requires that at least 98 per cent. of patients spend four hours or less from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge from the end of 2004. The trust did not meet this target.

A capital incentive scheme was launched in January 2004. Under this scheme, each trust that meets the five thresholds identified can access payments of up to £0.5 million. Four of these thresholds were in 2004–05. The performance requirements for each threshold are shown in table 2.

Table 2

Threshold (percentage)	*Quarter*	*Amount (capital) (£)*
Average		
95	Q1	100,000
96	Q2	100,000
97	Q3	100,000
98	Q4	100,000

Therefore, the trust did not meet any of the thresholds.

For the purpose of performance indicators, the Healthcare Commission set a target of 90 per cent. for the first three quarters of 2004–05. The trust met this target.

Cancer Mortality

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Government have made towards the

2004 public service agreement target to reduce cancer mortality in people under 75 years by at least 20 per cent. [5823]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* We are on course to meet the target by 2010. The latest information, for the three years from 2001 to 2003, shows a 12.2 per cent. reduction in mortality rates in people under 75 years against the 1995–97 baseline.

Clinical Trials Directive

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect that the Clinical Trials Directive has had on the length of time taken for clinical trials to be approved; [3262]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the effect that the Clinical Trials Directive has had on the volume of paperwork and administrative work which has to be completed and submitted by researchers before a project is approved; [3263]

(3) under what procedure researchers wishing to conduct a clinical trial can have their application for approval fast-tracked by her Department. [3264]

Jane Kennedy: The Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1031) that implement the European Union Clinical Trials Directive 2001/20/EC in the United Kingdom came into force on 1 May 2004.

The regulations provide a statutory basis for the regulation of the commencement and conduct of clinical trials of medicines. Most of the provisions were part of existing UK clinical trials regulation. The regulations require a positive opinion from an ethics committee and an authorisation issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

To achieve this, the regulations provided for the UK Ethics Committee Authority to recognise ethics committees and oversee the ethics review system. The regulations also provide for a single UK-wide opinion for multi-centre studies and set a defined time period—60 days—and restrict previous time-consuming reiteration of correspondence passing between applicant and committee. This has streamlined previous procedures while reinforcing the protection of research subjects. Throughout the first year of these regulations UK ethics committees have operated well within the 60-day target.

The regulations shortened MHRA's statutory response times to 30 days from 35 days and the Government agreed a pharmaceutical industry competitiveness task force performance target for response to applications for phase I trials of a mean of 14 days, with a maximum of 21 days. In the first year following implementation, the MHRA has met its deadline of 14 days for phase I applications and of 30 days for all other applications. The MHRA has no additional application process.

For regulatory approval for pharmaceutical company trials, the documentation required under the new legislation is similar to that required under the previous system. Non commercial researchers have a simplified application procedure requiring an application form and protocol and minimal supporting data. This is similar to the procedure before the clinical trials regulations came into force. The new application form is the same for all types of trial and has been designed to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy. It uses check boxes rather than free text and typically takes 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

Clostridium Difficile

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients have been *(a)* infected with and *(b)* died from the *clostridium difficile* bacteria in each of the last five years. [4460]

Jane Kennedy: Complete information on the number of patients with *clostridium difficile* infections in the last five years are not available, but reports made under the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) voluntary reporting scheme are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Voluntary reports of clostridium difficile infections diagnosed from faecal specimens for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

	Number of reports
2000[1]	20,556[2]
2001	22,008[2]
2002	28,986[2]
2003	35,537[2]
2004	43,672[2]

[1] 2000-England and Wales only.
[2] Provisional data.
Source:
HPA.

The only routinely available mortality statistic on *clostridium difficile* are those associated with enterocolitis, the most common illness caused by *clostridium difficile* infection.

Table 2 shows total mentions of *clostridium difficile* enterocolitis and the number where it was also the underlying cause of death for 2001 onwards. Comparable figures are not available before 2001, because no specific code for *clostridium difficile* exists in the ninth revision of the international classification of diseases (ICD). The version of the ICD used to code death certificates did not include a specific code for *clostridium difficile* enterocolitis.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is working with the HPA on a special study to identify the total number of deaths where clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate.

Number of deaths where enterocolitis due to clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate and the number of these mentions where it was also the underlying cause of death[1], England and Wales, 2001–03

	Total mentions	Underlying cause
2001	1,199	674
2002	1,417	751
2003	1,748	934

[1] Selected using the code A04.7 from the ICD, tenth revision (ICD-10).
Source:
ONS.

Dentistry

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent Personal Dental Service conversion rates are, broken down by primary care trust area and expressed as a percentage of the total number of dental surgery addresses. [2772]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library. This shows the percentage of dental practice addresses at 31 May 2005 which have an open personal dental service (PDS) contract—expressed as a percentage of the total number of dental surgery addresses with either an open general dental service (CDS) or PDS contract. At 31 May, there were 5,845 dentists in PDS pilots. This was 28.9 per cent, of the total number of dentists in the GDS and PDS pilots.

Hepatitis C

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her officials will discuss with the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health its data collection on hepatitis C in Scotland; and if she will make a statement. [1701]

Caroline Flint: Departmental officials are in contact from time to time with officials in the Scottish Executive, who take advice from Health Protection Scotland (HPS), (formerly known as the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health) about a range of issues around hepatitis C, including data collection on hepatitis C in Scotland.

I am aware that the Health Protection Agency, which is responsible for national surveillance of hepatitis C, is discussing with HPS ways in which reporting in England may be improved.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy response she has formulated to the advice of the Chief Medical Officer given in the document Getting Ahead of the Curve published in 2002 relating to the treatment costs of hepatitis C. [3138]

Caroline Flint: The Department published its "Hepatitis C Action Plan for England" in 2004 to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C. Implementation of the action plan is being underpinned by an awareness raising campaign for health care professionals and the public.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her officials have had with the Scottish Executive concerning differentials in the rate of diagnosis of hepatitis C in Scotland and England; and if she will make a statement [1463]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* Departmental officials are in contact from time to time with officials in the Scottish Executive about a range of issues around hepatitis C, but have not had any specific discussions on the differential rates of laboratory reported hepatitis C diagnoses made to Health Protection Scotland (HPS) and to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in England. However, we are aware that the HPA, which is responsible for national surveillance of hepatitis C, is discussing with the HPS ways in which reporting in England may be improved.

Hospital Hygiene

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps cross-infection sisters are taking to control infection. [3188]

Jane Kennedy: The role of the infection control nurses is defined in "Hospital Infection Control, Guidance on the control of infection in hospitals", prepared by the hospital infection working group of the Department and the Public Health Laboratory Service in March 1995, which is available in the Library. The infection control nurse is responsible for surveillance, prevention and control of infection and has responsibility for ensuring policies and training are in place to secure effective infection control.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines have been issued on the hygiene of interaction between patients, clinical staff and visitors in NHS hospitals; [3904]

(2) what guidelines are followed when isolating patients who contract infections in relation to contact between patients, clinical staff and visitors in NHS hospitals. [3907]

Jane Kennedy: Trusts have their own infection control manuals and these will include policies on the management of isolated patients and procedures to be followed by patients and relatives. These will be based on national guidelines and other evidence.

The key guidance documents available on the Department's website include:

"Winning Ways—Working together to reduce Healthcare Associated Infection in England"

"The epic project: developing national evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare associated infection: Phase 1: guidelines for preventing hospital-acquired infections"

"National Institute for Clinical Excellence, Infection Control: prevention of healthcare associated infection in primary and community care"

Information on the management of infected patients is available on the newly created national resource for infection control website at http://www.nric.org.uk.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether bedside Bibles have been removed in University Hospitals of Leicester NHS trust to stem transmission of infections between patients. [3906]

Jane Kennedy: Bedside Bibles are still available to patients at University Hospitals of Leicester National Health Service Trust. Although publications such as Bibles cannot be thoroughly decontaminated between patients, they are not a major source of infection.

The national programme to tackle healthcare associated infections concentrates on reducing significant risks, for example, by improving hand hygiene.

NHS Staff (Assaults)

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assaults have been recorded on ambulance staff in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [4398]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested has not been collated centrally for the period 1999–2000.

The table shows the estimated number of reported violent incidents against ambulance staff for 2000–01, 2001–02, and 2002–03. These estimates could represent a range of incidents from assault to verbal abuse and therefore do not accurately identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem.

	Total number of reported incidents in the year
2000–01	3,882
2001–02	4,778
2002–03	5,283

In April 2003, the national health service security management service (SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. In November 2003, a new national reporting system for physical assaults against NHS staff was introduced. The SMS has begun a programme of work to identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem of violence against NHS staff. Accurate information concerning physical assaults against NHS staff is expected to be available from summer 2005.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the number of violent incidents in ambulance trusts in the NHS in England in each year since 1997, broken down by trust. [4400]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested has not been collated centrally for the period 1997–99.

The table shows the estimated number of reported violent incidents involving ambulance staff for 2000–01, 2001–02, and 2002–03 for each ambulance trust in England. These estimates could represent a range of incidents from assault to verbal abuse and therefore do not accurately identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem.

In April 2003, the national health service security management service (SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. In November 2003, a new national reporting system for physical assaults against NHS staff was introduced. The SMS has begun a programme of work to identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem of violence against NHS staff. Accurate information concerning physical assaults against NHS staff is expected to be available from summer 2005.

Estimated violent or abusive incidents in each NHS Ambulance Trust 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03

Provider code	*Name*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
RB1	Avon Ambulance Service NHS Trust	17	31	163
RFU	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance and Paramedic Service NHS Trust	45	48	75
RE6	Cumbria Ambulance Service NHS Trust	13	34	54
RHP	Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust	55	39	72
RMZ	East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust	103	89	119
RV6	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	161	233	290
RB4	Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	18	28	66
RB5	Gloucestershire Ambulance Services NHS Trust	7	30	60
RMA	Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	119	304	277
RKD	Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	168	81	75
RL5	Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	8	18	101
RPH	Kent Ambulance NHS Trust	59		55
RMD	Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	112	161	104
RBX	Lincolnshire Ambulance and Health Transport Service NHS Trust	46	67	86
RRU	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,425	2,158	2,211
RB6	Mersey Regional Ambulance Service NHS Trust	75	60	67
RVK	North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	544	229	167
RNY	Oxfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust	39	35	72
RH1	Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	46	39	33
RB8	South Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance and Paramedic Services NHS Trust	96	173	52
RB7	Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	30	26	78
RPQ	Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust	120	122	131
RQ2	Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	7	221	301
RV1	Tees East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	87	105	—
RHY	Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust	134	81	88
RKA	West Midlands Metropolitan Ambulance Service NHS Trust	171	154	186
RGH	West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service NHS Trust	68	65	183
RL6	Warwickshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	14	37	39
RJ9	West Country Ambulance Services NHS Trust	94	110	70
RHR	Wiltshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1	—	8
Total		3,882	4,778	5,283

Source:
Department of Health.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy is on the provision of protective uniforms to ambulance personnel for protection against violent attack. [4404]

Jane Kennedy: The provision of protective uniforms is a matter for each individual national health service ambulance trust, based on a comprehensive risk assessment of the risks faced by their staff. A joint Treasury-funded project between the NHS security management service and the Home Office is currently evaluating the effectiveness of such equipment in helping to better protect ambulance staff. This is due to report later this year.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attacks there have been on ambulance officers and paramedics in each of the last five years, broken down by health authority; how many people have been successfully prosecuted for carrying out such attacks; how many prosecutions are ongoing; and if she will make a statement. [4158]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 15 June 2005]:* The information requested has not been collated centrally for the period 1999–2000.

The table shows the estimated number of reported violent incidents involving ambulance staff for 2000–01, 2001–02, and 2002–03 for each ambulance trust in England. These estimates could represent a range of incidents from assault to verbal abuse and therefore do not accurately identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem.

In April 2003, the national health service security management service (SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. In November 2003, a new national reporting system for physical assaults against NHS staff was introduced. The SMS has begun a programme of work to identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem of violence against NHS staff. Accurate information concerning physical assaults against NHS staff is expected to be available from summer 2005.

Information relating to the number of prosecutions for those who have assaulted NHS staff was not collated centrally in any systematic manner prior to 2004–05. In 2002–03, there were 51 prosecutions against those who had assaulted NHS staff who could be identified by a Department of Health survey of NHS health bodies. Information relating to the number of successful prosecutions obtained against those who have physically assaulted NHS staff for 2004–05 will be available shortly.

Estimated violent or abusive incidents in each NHS ambulance trust 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03

Provider code	*Name*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
RB1	Avon Ambulance Service NHS Trust	17	31	163
RFU	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance and Paramedic Service NHS Trust	45	48	75
RE6	Cumbria Ambulance Service NHS Trust	13	34	54
RHP	Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust	55	39	72
RMZ	East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust	103	89	119
RV6	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	161	233	290
RB4	Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	18	28	66
RB5	Gloucestershire Ambulance Services NHS Trust	7	30	60
RMA	Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	119	304	277
RKD	Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	168	81	75
RL5	Hereford & Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	8	18	101
RPH	Kent Ambulance NHS Trust	59	—	55
RMD	Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	112	161	104
RBX	Lincolnshire Ambulance and Health Transport Service NHS Trust	46	67	86
RRU	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,425	2,158	2,211
RB6	Mersey Regional Ambulance Service NHS Trust	75	60	67
RVK	North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	544	229	167
RNY	Oxfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust	39	35	72
RH1	Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	46	39	33
RB8	South Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance and Paramedic Services NHS Trust	96	173	52
RB7	Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	30	26	78
RPQ	Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust	120	122	131
RQ2	Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	7	221	301
RV1	Tees East & North Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	87	105	—
RHY	Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust	134	81	88
RKA	West Midlands Metropolitan Ambulance Service NHS Trust	171	154	186
RGH	West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service NHS Trust	68	65	183
RL6	Warwickshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	14	37	39
RJ9	West Country Ambulance Services NHS Trust	94	110	70
RHR	Wiltshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1	—	8
Total		3,882	4,778	5,283

Source:
Department of Health

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosecutions for violence against the staff of NHS trusts have been taken out in each year since 2003; and what targets have been set by her Department to increase the number of incidents where the perpetrators are prosecuted. [4399]

Jane Kennedy: Information relating to the number of prosecutions for those who have physically assaulted national health service staff was not collated systematically prior to 2004–05, when the NHS security management service (SMS) introduced a national reporting system for physical assaults.

In 2002–03, there were 51 prosecutions against those who had assaulted NHS staff who could be identified by a Department of Health survey of NHS health bodies. Information relating to the number of successful prosecutions obtained against those who have physically assaulted NHS staff for 2004–05 will be available shortly.

No targets for increasing the number of prosecutions obtained against those who assault NHS staff have been set. A developing network of local security management specialists across the NHS, supported by the SMS, will provide stronger local liaison with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service and ensure that all incidents of violence against staff are properly investigated and prosecuted, where that is appropriate and in the public interest.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Chief Police Officers will be agreed by autumn this year. This will ensure that the responsibilities, in relation to tackling violence, of health bodies, the SMS and the police are clearly defined.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets have been set by her Department on reducing incidents of violence against NHS staff. [4631]

Jane Kennedy: No targets are set currently for reducing the number of incidents of violence against national health service staff.

In April 2003, the NHS security management service (SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff.

The SMS aims to deliver a secure environment for both those who use or work in the NHS, so that the highest standards of clinical care can be made available to patients. Its objective is to deter and prevent such incidences from occurring but, where this cannot be achieved, enable staff to manage these incidents with a minimum of risk to themselves and others.

In November 2003, a comprehensive range of measures were introduced to tackle incidences of violence against NHS staff, both proactively and reactively. The SMS has begun a programme of work to identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem of violence against NHS staff. Once this work is completed, meaningful and achievable targets for delivering a secure environment for NHS staff will be set.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total financial cost to NHS trusts of pursuing prosecutions on behalf of staff who have been victims of an alleged assault during their hours of work was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what assessment she has made of the effect of such costs on trusts' willingness to prosecute. [5162]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The information requested is not collated centrally.

In April 2003, the national health service security management service (SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. In November 2003, the SMS legal protection unit was created, as one of a range of measures introduced to tackle violence against NHS staff. Its objective is to work with health bodies, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to increase the number of prosecutions against those who assault NHS staff.

They provide free and consistent advice on action to health bodies to deal with those who abuse or assault staff and where legal action is required, independent of the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, will share up to 50 per cent. of the costs of pursuing such action. This represents a significant financial saving for health bodies.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make representations to Shropshire Primary Care Trust to provide essential drugs for rheumatoid arthritis on prescription. [3211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is a wide range of over-the-counter and prescription drugs available to help relieve the pain and discomfort and reduce the future damage associated with the 200 different forms of arthritis.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraises the suitability of new drugs for use in the national health service. Primary care trusts are obliged to make drugs recommended by NICE available to all patients who meet the clinical guidelines. It is the responsibility of individual strategic health authorities to ensure local compliance with NICE guidelines.

Scans (Waiting Times)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for *(a)* an MRI scan, *(b)* an ultrasound scan and *(c)* a CT scan (i) in London, (ii) at Barnet Chase Farm Hospitals and (iii) in the area covered by Barnet Primary Care Trust; and if she will make a statement. [3266]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not currently collected centrally.

We have put in place a national diagnostics programme to remove waits. We are establishing indicative milestones for diagnostic treatments:

by March 2006, the maximum wait for computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging scans will be 26 weeks.

by March 2007, it will be 13 weeks for all scans and diagnostics.

by 2008, all patients will be treated within 18 weeks from general practitioner referral. This will include any diagnostics.

The Department is currently agreeing strategic health authorities' local delivery plans and will monitor progress against those plans.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

"Securing the Vote" Report

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how and when her Department will respond to the recommendations made in the Electoral Commission's report, "Securing the Vote". [1763]

Ms Harman: The Government are currently considering the measures in "Securing the Vote" and we will respond when it is appropriate to do so. The Government have sought views from stakeholders on the policy paper on electoral administration, which includes a number of the measures in "Securing the Vote". We intend to legislate for most of these measures in the Electoral Administration Bill.

Coroner Service

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to reform the coroner service in England and Wales. [1906]

Ms Harman *[pursuant to the reply, 7 June 2005, Official Report, c. 1124]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information contained in my answer to my hon. and learned Friend's supplementary question was inaccurate. I apologise for this error. The coroner was reprimanded and continues to be monitored by the Lord Chancellor. However, he has not been required to undertake any extra training.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what monitoring of the jurisdiction of the Teesside coroner her Department is carrying out following the reprimand issued in June 2004. [3563]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor has been receiving monthly information reports from the coroner for Teesside since June 2004. The reports provide details of performance in relation to all coroner cases (including inquests) in the region and specifically the numbers of cases received, disposed of and outstanding on a monthly basis. The Lord Chancellor will consider whether he requires the coroner to continue with the provision of monthly reports after the end of June 2005.

Courts Service

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) if she will make a statement on proposed weekend courts; [5990]

(2) if she will make a statement on the sitting hours of courts. [6048]

Ms Harman: There are no plans to introduce weekend courts beyond those arrangements already in place. Some magistrates courts do regularly sit on Saturdays to conduct business. The Supporting Magistrates to Provide Justice Programme as part of the Government response to crime and antisocial behaviour is considering extending sitting hours including weekend courts generally.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the capacity of the unified Courts Service to make more effective use of its resources. [2749]

Ms Harman: Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) were launched as a new agency from 1 April 2005. For the first time all magistrates, Crown and county courts will operate together creating a more effective organisation and deliver efficiencies through merging of local activities, estates integration and more efficient use of corporate resources. HMCS plan to deliver efficiency savings of £14 million/£24 million/£31million and reduce its workforce by 400/600/800 over the SR04 period. The staff reduction will not be achieved through redundancies but through other means such as not filling new vacancies over the period. These efficiencies will be delivered through local plans in each of the 42 areas.

Criminal Defence Services Bill

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs for what reasons the thresholds for criminal legal aid set out in the proposed Criminal Defence Services Bill are different to those established for civil legal aid. [6001]

Bridget Prentice: As a general principle, the Government believe that the potential loss of liberty confronting an individual who faces criminal prosecution by the state is sufficiently serious to justify broad distinction from civil proceedings. For this reason, it is considered important to establish separate thresholds for both the criminal and civil legal aid schemes. In addition, the threshold for criminal legal aid has been specifically set at a level that we believe will ensure compliance with Article 6 of the European convention on human rights.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the proposed financial thresholds for means testing in the Criminal Defence Service Bill will be index-linked. [6002]

Bridget Prentice: The Framework Document published alongside the Criminal Defence Service Bill includes an undertaking to carry out an annual review of the proposed financial eligibility thresholds. In all normal circumstances, we would expect to update these thresholds in line with one of the established indicators such as the Rossi index. These proposals will be included among the draft regulations setting out the specific mechanics of the new means testing model. The regulations are expected to be published in autumn 2005 and will be subject to a full consultation exercise, the outcome of which will help to inform the final design and operation of the new scheme.

Criminal Practice

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average salary of a pupil conducting criminal legally aided work has been in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [6379]

Bridget Prentice: The specific information requested is not collated or held centrally by this Department and therefore an answer cannot be given. The issue of salaries paid to pupils is a matter for chambers and the individual barristers concerned.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how she plans to encourage young barristers into criminal practice. [6380]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have no specific plans to encourage young barristers into criminal practice or any other field.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of law students applied to become criminal barristers in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [6381]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held centrally either by this Department or by the Bar Council. Law students train to become barristers rather than criminal barristers. They may then choose to apply to a criminal chambers, but this is of course, a personal decision.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much has been spent on the Criminal Defence Service in each of the last 10 years. [6382]

Bridget Prentice: Spending on the Criminal Defence Service since its implementation in April 2001 and, prior to this criminal legal aid, was as follows:

	£ million
2004–05[1]	1,192
2003–04	1,179
2002–03	1,096
2001–02	982
2000–01	873
1999–2000	783
1998–99	779
1997–98	734
1996–97	669
1995–96	616

[1] Figures for 2004–05 are estimates and subject to year-end adjustments.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to introduce revised payment rates to meet the costs of the additional case management responsibilities introduced in the Criminal Procedures Rules 2005. [5999]

Bridget Prentice: The Government support the new Criminal Procedure Rules which aim to gain better control of case management and length of trials, and encourage earlier and better preparation. We are consulting the legal professions to make structural changes to the graduated fee scheme in Preston and Nottingham to support the Plea and Case Management Hearing pilots. These changes would be on a cost-neutral basis.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how she intends to improve the effective recovery of costs in criminal trials at the Crown court. [6000]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are planning to strengthen the existing system of recovery of defence costs orders, as well as making greater use of the courts' existing power to restrain people from disposing of their assets. While the Criminal Defence Service Bill also confers the power to introduce formal means testing into the Crown court, we believe that this will require a different model to the existing proposals for the magistrates court. The Government will publish their design for a suitable Crown court scheme in due course and reaffirm their commitment to consult fully and widely on these proposals.

Departmental Objectives/Staffing

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to involve hon. Members in delivering the objectives of her Department. [2858]

Ms Harman: The objectives of my Department are set out in the document "Making a Difference Taking Forward Our Priorities", copies of which were placed in the Libraries of both Houses. In the development of these proposals we have consulted hon. Members by issuing consultation papers, holding meetings and engaging in debates. We intend to continue to do so.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the expected change is in full-time equivalent staff resulting from merging the electoral law divisions in the Department for Constitutional Affairs and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [5571]

Ms Harman: There are no plans in the immediate future to change the number of full-time equivalent staff working on electoral law as a result of the recent machinery of Government changes.

Judicial Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her policy is on the minimum legal qualifications necessary for a judicial appointment. [5926]

Ms Harman: The eligibility requirements for judicial appointments are set down in statute. They vary according to the judicial office concerned, but in general they provide that before being considered for judicial appointment, an individual must have possessed specified rights of audience before the courts for a specified length of time. The Lord Chancellor announced on 5 March this year that he would review the statutory eligibility requirements as a part of his programme of work aimed at increasing the diversity of the judiciary. That review is currently under way, and the Lord Chancellor will announce his decision shortly. It should be noted that the statutory qualifications are the minimum required to enable an individual to apply for judicial appointment: those who do apply are assessed against a detailed competence framework for the post concerned, and appointments are made solely on merit.

Rape Trials

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) if she will ensure that an Appeal Court judge who hears a rape appeal undergoes training in serious sexual offences; [1588]

(2) whether Court of Appeal (criminal division) judges *(a)* undergo continuation training on sexual offences and *(b)* receive further training on sexual offences after attending the serious sexual offences course on first appointment to the High Court; [1582]

(3) if she will ensure that a Court of Appeal judge who may hear a rape appeal but has not been on the serious sexual offences course is obliged to attend such a course; [1589]

(4) whether judges who were promoted from the High Court to the Court of Appeal prior to the introduction of the serious sexual offences course for High Court judges are given similar training before being allowed to hear rape appeals. [1587]

Ms Harman: Rape appeals will invariably be heard by an Appeal Court which will include at least one and usually two judges who have been on the serious sexual offences seminar.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action she is taking to improve the provision of adult education. [5933]

Phil Hope: The Government's Skills Strategy, "21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential" (July 2003) and "Skills: Getting on in business, getting on at work" (March 2005) set out our plans for increasing and improving opportunities for adults to develop their skills. Adult education services are benefiting from our well-received Success for All programme. This is a long-term initiative to develop quality, demand-led provision, in which the Department is investing £118 million this year. For example, students benefit from the excellent teaching and learning resources produced through Success for All and managers can develop their leadership and management skills through the Government-funded Centre for Excellence in Leadership.

A-levels

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions she has had with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the *(a)* future and *(b)* rigour of A levels. [4913]

Jacqui Smith: None. Our proposals for further strengthening A levels are set out in our White Paper, 14–19 Education and Skills, published on 23 February 2005. The Secretary of State wrote to the QCA on 29 March with details of the role it should play in driving these reforms forward.

Basic Skills

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many adults are without *(a)* level 3 and *(b)* basic skills, broken down by (i) local education authority and (ii) Government office region. [6292]

Phil Hope: The following table shows both the number and proportion of working adults[1] who lack a NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualification. The results are based on the 2003–04 local labour force survey which sampled around 390,000 people from March 2003 to February 2004 throughout the United Kingdom. Figures are presented at Country and Government office region level in the first instance, and then local education authorities ordered alphabetically:

[1] Working age adults defined here as males aged 16–64 and females aged 16–59.

	Adults without a level 3 or higher	
Country	*Number (Thousand)*	*Percentage*
England	17,059	56
Wales	1,027	59
Scotland	1,614	52
Northern Ireland	615	60
Government Office Region		
North East	922	60
North West	2,370	58
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,759	58
East Midlands	1,487	58
West Midlands	1,925	60
East of England	1,932	59
London	2,530	53
South East	2,558	52
South West	1,576	54
Local Education Authority		
Aberdeen City	62	47
Aberdeenshire	72	50
Angus	33	52
Argyll and Bute	26	50
Barking and Dagenham	70	71
Barnet	98	47
Barnsley	87	65
Bath and North East Somerset	47	45
Bedfordshire	130	54
Bexley	84	63
Birmingham	363	61
Blackburn	51	62
Blackpool	56	69
Blaenau Gwent	31	76
Bolton	88	55
Bournemouth	53	55
Bracknell Forest	37	52
Bradford	177	62
Brent	103	60
Bridgend	46	59
Brighton and Hove	70	43
Bristol	116	48
Bromley	96	53
Buckinghamshire	141	48
Bury	60	54
Caerphilly	69	67
Calderdale	69	58
Cambridgeshire	179	51
Camden	61	44
Cardiff	92	48
Carmarthenshire	61	61
Ceredigion	24	50
Cheshire	209	51
City of London	n/a	n/a
Clackmannanshire	17	58
Conwy	38	62
Cornwall	164	55
Coventry	108	58
Croydon	122	57
Cumbria	167	58
Darlington	34	59
Denbighshire	32	59
Derby	76	56
Derbyshire	270	60
Devon	212	52
Doncaster	113	66
Dorset	123	55
Dudley	112	61
Dumfries and Galloway	48	57
Dundee City	43	51
Durham	183	61
Ealing	99	48
East Ayrshire	43	59
East Dunbartonshire	27	40
East Lothian	28	50

Country	Adults without a level 3 or higher: Number (Thousand)	Percentage
East Renfrewshire	20	35
East Riding of Yorkshire	104	55
East Sussex	157	57
Edinburgh, City of	115	39
Eilean Siar	8	54
Enfield	108	62
Essex	507	64
Falkirk	49	54
Fife	112	52
Flintshire	53	57
Gateshead	71	61
Glasgow City	202	55
Gloucestershire	181	53
Greater Peterborough	62	63
Greenwich	79	57
Gwynedd	38	54
Hackney	82	60
Halton	48	66
Hammersmith and Fulham	53	43
Hampshire	384	51
Haringey	82	55
Harrow	68	50
Hartlepool	35	66
Havering	91	67
Hereford	60	58
Hertfordshire	316	50
Highland	65	53
Hillingdon	85	54
Hounslow	79	57
Inverclyde	27	53
Isle of Anglesey	23	58
Isle of Wight	43	59
Islington	62	52
Kensington and Chelsea	51	43
Kent	457	57
Kingston upon Hull	103	70
Kingston upon Thames	37	37
Kirklees	139	58
Knowsley	65	72
Lambeth	90	51
Lancashire	376	55
Leeds	232	52
Leicester	113	65
Leicestershire	212	55
Lewisham	87	53
Lincolnshire	223	58
Liverpool	181	67
Luton	71	62
Manchester	141	56
Medway Towns	102	65
Merthyr Tydfil	24	70
Merton	56	44
Middlesbrough	51	63
Midlothian	28	56
Milton Keynes	83	59
Monmouthshire	25	49
Moray	30	59
Neath Port Talbot	52	65
Newcastle upon Tyne	86	53
Newham	106	68
Newport	51	62
Norfolk	287	61
North Ayrshire	46	56
North East Lincolnshire	65	71
North Lanarkshire	117	58
North Lincolnshire	55	60
North Somerset	60	53
North Tyneside	64	56
North Yorkshire	164	49
Northamptonshire	228	58
Northumberland	108	58
Nottingham	100	59
Nottinghamshire	256	56
Oldham	86	65
Orkney Islands	6	52
Oxfordshire	180	47
Pembrokeshire	39	58
Perth and Kinross	37	47
Plymouth	87	59
Poole	47	57
Portsmouth	69	58
Powys	45	61
Reading	47	50
Redbridge	93	60
Redcar and Cleveland	54	65
Renfrewshire	53	50
Rhondda Cynon Taff	90	65
Richmond upon Thames	45	38
Rochdale	81	64
Rotherham	96	63
Royal Windsor/Maidenhead	38	45
Rutland	10	48
Salford	78	60
Sandwell	118	70
Scottish Borders, The	35	55
Sefton	93	57
Sheffield	177	56
Shetland Islands	7	52
Shropshire	93	56
Slough	49	64
Solihull	62	52
Somerset	163	56
South Ayrshire	35	54
South Gloucestershire	76	50
South Lanarkshire	107	57
South Tyneside	56	62
Southampton	77	55
Southend	62	64
Southwark	85	53
St. Helens	65	60
Staffordshire	293	59
Stirling	24	44
Stockport	93	54
Stockton on Tees	65	59
Stoke-on-Trent	102	70
Suffolk	252	64
Sunderland	114	67
Surrey	307	47
Sutton	64	56
Swansea	72	54
Swindon	66	58
Tameside	87	66
Telford and Wrekin	63	62
The Vale of Glamorgan	38	53
Thurrock	66	72
Torbay	44	61
Torfaen	36	65
Tower Hamlets	77	58
Trafford	61	48
Wakefield	126	65
Walsall	99	66
Waltham Forest	82	60
Wandsworth	73	39
Warrington	65	55
Warwickshire	176	56
West Berkshire	45	49

Country	Adults without a level 3 or higher Number (Thousand)	Percentage
West Dunbartonshire	33	58
West Lothian	59	55
West Sussex	232	53
Westminster, City of	64	48
Wigan	115	61
Wiltshire	136	52
Wirral	103	56
Wokingham	40	41
Wolverhampton	91	65
Worcestershire	187	57
Wrexham	51	64
York	53	47

n/a = Sample size too small to provide a reliable figure.

In October 2003 the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) published 'The Skills for Life Survey: A national needs and impact survey of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills'. The survey assessed the literacy, numeracy and ICT skills of around 8000 adults aged 16 and above in England. The findings for the nine government office regions are shown in the following tables. The assessment levels correspond to the new literacy and numeracy core curriculum and National Standards: Level 1 is broadly equivalent to a lower grade GCSE (grade D-G) and Level 2 to a higher grade GCSE (A*-C).

Overall around 16 per cent. of adults had literacy skills below Level 1: this varied between 21 per cent. in the north-east and 12 per cent. in the south-east. Likewise, 47 per cent. of adults had numeracy skills below Level 1 and this varied between 55 per cent. in the north-east and 40 per cent. in the south-east.

Literacy level by government office region

Percentage

	Total	North East	Region London	Yorks & Humber	West Midlands
Base: All respondents with literacy scores	(7874)	(881)	(862)	(883)	(857)
Entry level 1 or below	3	4	5	4	4
Entry level 2	2	3	2	2	2
Entry level 3	11	14	13	13	11
Level 1	40	41	34	42	42
Level 2 or above	44	37	46	39	41

Percentage

	North West	East Midlands	Region South West	East of England	South East
Base: All respondents with literacy scores	(880)	(761)	(879)	(749)	(1122)
Entry level 1 or below	4	3	2	2	2
Entry level 2	2	2	3	1	1
Entry level 3	12	10	9	9	8
Level 1	42	41	40	40	37
Level 2 or above	41	43	46	47	51

Numeracy level by Government office region

Percentage

	Total	North East	Region Yorks & Humber	North West	East Midlands
Base: All respondents with numeracy scores	(8040)	(898)	(923)	(895)	(785)
Entry level 1 or below	5	6	6	6	6
Entry level 2	16	22	17	19	16
Entry level 3	25	27	28	24	27
Level 1	28	24	28	28	27
Level 2 or above	25	21	21	23	23

Percentage

	South West	London	Region West Midlands	East of England	South East
Base: All respondents with numeracy scores	(889)	(881)	(865)	(766)	(1138)
Entry level 1 or below	5	6	6	4	4
Entry level 2	16	17	16	13	12
Entry level 3	28	25	25	25	24
Level 1	29	26	29	28	27
Level 2 or above	23	25	24	30	32

Due to the survey sample size it is not possible to provide survey findings for the level of skills by local education authorities. However, the Department is currently working with Exeter university to generate a range of local level estimates (based on modelling techniques) to inform local planning and delivery in this key policy area. To date, estimates have been produced for Local Learning and Skills Councils (LLSCs), Districts and Wards. These estimates can be accessed on the Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus_skillsforlifesurvey/

A copy of the survey report is in the House of Commons Library and on the DfES website:

www.dfes.gov.uk

Binge Drinking

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are being taken in schools to promote awareness of the health implications of binge drinking. [5401]

Jacqui Smith: All maintained schools must provide drug education, including information about alcohol. There is scope within the frameworks for Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship at key stages 1 and 2, PSHE at key stages 3 and 4 and the Citizenship programme of study at key stages 3 and 4 to explore the effects of binge drinking. Alcohol education in schools has an essential role to play in enabling pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about alcohol.

In 2004–05, we supported over 2,000 teachers in the PSHE certificate for teachers which sets standards in the teaching of drug and alcohol education. Up to 3,000 teachers will be supported in 2005–06.

Together with the Home Office and Department of Health, we are supporting a national five year research programme called "Blueprint" to test the effectiveness of drug education initiatives in schools. It will make a significant contribution to developing a UK evidence base for drug, alcohol and tobacco education.

Broadband

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is being made available to each local education authority to provide broadband internet access for schools. [5413]

Jacqui Smith: A list of broadband for schools funding 2005/06 made available to each local education authority is as follows:

Annex 1

LEA	*Allocation (£)*
City of London	5,294
Camden	296,605
Greenwich	439,793
Hackney	352,857
Hammersmith	260,808
Islington	327,288
Kensington and Chelsea	168,758
Lambeth	398,882
Lewisham	465,362
Southwark	490,932
Tower Hamlets	475,590

Annex 1

LEA	*Allocation (£)*
Wandsworth	403,996
Westminster	260,808
Barking	306,832
Barnet	603,437
Bexley	424,451
Brent	429,565
Bromley	529,179
Croydon	639,234
Ealing	434,679
Enfield	470,476
Haringey	414,224
Harrow	363,085
Havering	455,135
Hillingdon	460,249
Hounslow	424,451
Kingston upon Thames	265,921
Merton	281,263
Newham	429,565
Redbridge	383,541
Richmond upon Thames	265,921
Sutton	301,719
Waltham Forest	429,565
Birmingham	2,137,599
Coventry	613,665
Dudley	582,982
Sandwell	649,462
Solihull	504,518
Walsall	623,893
Wolverhampton	567,640
Knowsley	441,527
Liverpool	961,408
St Helens	402,334
Sefton	613,665
Wirral	690,373
Bolton	680,145
Bury	419,338
Manchester	930,725
Oldham	627,378
Rochdale	490,932
Salford	547,184
Stockport	634,120
Tameside	521,615
Trafford	506,273
Wigan	746,626
Barnsley	568,404
Doncaster	931,404
Rotherham	753,402
Sheffield	983,954
Bradford	1,101,857
Calderdale	635,415
Kirklees	1,155,290
Leeds	1,629,391
Wakefield	811,886
Gateshead	490,189
Newcastle upon Tyne	490,932
North Tyneside	414,224
South Tyneside	363,085
Sunderland	582,982
Isles of Scilly	55,670
Bath and NE Somerset	0
City of Bristol	0
North Somerset	0
South Gloucestershire	0
Hartlepool	211,567
Middlesbrough	286,377
Redcar and Cleveland	385,512
Stockton-on-Tees	473,252
Kingston-upon-Hull	516,501
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,300,867
North East Lincolnshire	441,162
North Lincolnshire	661,317
North Yorkshire	3,638,225
York	408,906

Annex 1

LEA	*Allocation (£)*
Bedfordshire	1,506,180
Luton	383,541
Buckinghamshire	1,637,881
Milton Keynes	661,874
Derbyshire	2,833,485
Derby	506,273
Dorset	0
Poole	0
Bournemouth	0
Durham	1,944,661
Darlington	256,179
East Sussex	1,337,094
Brighton and Hove	373,313
Hampshire	3,525,005
Portsmouth	373,313
Southampton	434,679
Leicestershire	1,949,582
Leicester	588,095
Rutland	199,222
Staffordshire	2,685,483
Stoke-on-Trent	526,729
Wiltshire	0
Swindon	0
Bracknell Forest	220,152
Windsor and Maidenhead	390,777
West Berkshire	637,109
Reading	260,808
Slough	230,124
Wokingham	385,611
Cambridgeshire	2,055,991
Peterborough	457,558
Cheshire	2,276,988
Halton	347,304
Warrington	452,871
Devon	0
Plymouth	0
Torbay	0
Essex	3,797,440
Southend-on-Sea	296,605
Thurrock	338,555
Herefordshire	999,438
Worcestershire	1,779,751
Kent	3,988,085
Medway Towns	645,552
Lancashire	3,976,174
Blackburn with Darwen	401,834
Blackpool	225,010
Nottinghamshire	2,329,098
Nottingham City	639,234
Shropshire	1,509,149
Telford and Wrekin	515,380
Cornwall	0
Cumbria	2,760,052
Gloucestershire	0
Hertfordshire	3,174,292
Isle of Wight	530,794
Lincolnshire	3,279,602
Norfolk	3,770,705
Northamptonshire	2,332,898
Northumberland	1,635,590
Oxfordshire	2,095,728
Somerset	17,475,497
Suffolk	2,705,558
Surrey	2,429,053
Warwickshire	1,745,870
West Sussex	1,946,537
Total	143,606,001

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in each local education authority have broadband internet access. [5654]

Jacqui Smith: The Prime Minister announced the target to connect all schools to broadband by 2006 and we are on schedule to achieve this. As at end March 2005, 76 per cent. of schools in England were connected to broadband (73 per cent. of Primary schools and 99 per cent. of Secondary schools) compared to just one in eight in December 2001.

A list of the percentage of schools that have broadband internet access as at 31 March 2005, by each local education authority, is as follows:

Annex 1

	Schools connected	
LEA	*Number*	*Percentage*
Banes	66	77
Barking	61	100
Barnet	123	99
Barnsley	100	98
Bedfordshire	148	65
Bexley	84	100
Birmingham	443	100
Blackburn with Darwin	47	57
Blackpool	44	100
Bolton	27	20
Bournmouth	12	31
Bracknell Forest	38	96
Bradford	141	68
Brent	87	99
Brighton and Hove	72	96
Bristol	113	69
Bromley	102	100
Buckinghamshire	68	28
Bury	37	45
Calderdale	49	48
Cambridgeshire	233	91
Camden	60	100
Cheshire	273	78
City of London	1	100
Cornwall	208	75
Coventry	119	99
Croydon	128	95
Cumbria	233	68
Darlington	42	88
Derby City	95	88
Derbyshire	291	68
Devon	237	64
Doncaster	43	32
Dorset	131	72
Dudley	115	100
Durham	169	55
Ealing	81	89
East Riding of Yorkshire	150	94
East Sussex	140	71
Enfield	83	89
Essex	237	40
Gateshead	94	100
Gloucestershire	228	73
Greenwich	79	87
Hackney	60	81
Halton	49	72
Hammersmith	51	91
Hampshire	525	95
Haringey	62	74
Harrow	70	99
Hartlepool	40	100
Havering	90	100
Herefordshire	104	99

Annex 1

LEA	Schools connected Number	Schools connected Percentage
Hertfordshire	529	94
Hillingdon	70	78
Hounslow	85	100
Isle of Wight	61	86
Islington	45	79
Kensington and Chelsea	38	100
Kent	287	46
Kingston	23	43
Kingston upon Hull	42	40
Kirklees MBC	44	22
Knowsley	78	100
Lambeth	78	88
Lancashire	420	64
Leeds	5	100
Leicester City	60	52
Leicestershire	165	56
Lewisham	90	100
Lincolnshire	227	59
Liverpool	209	100
Luton	58	69
Manchester	185	100
Meadway	113	100
Merton	54	98
Middlesbrough	55	100
Milton Keynes	103	95
Newcastle	103	100
Newham	86	93
Norfolk	266	58
Northamptonshire	237	66
North East Lincolnshire	73	96
North Lincolnshire	66	77
North Somerset	55	68
North Tyneside	81	100
North Yorkshire	216	55
Northumberland	97	46
Nottingham City	76	55
Nottinghamshire	234	62
Oldham	70	59
Oxfordshire	292	99
Peterborough	75	96
Plymouth	94	86
Poole	43	100
Portsmouth	69	95
R.B. Windsor and Maidenhead	64	97
Reading	6	11
Redbridge	75	100
Redcar and Cleveland	64	100
Richmond on Thames	18	34
Rochdale	101	100
Rotherham	130	95
Rutland	12	55
Salford	100	91
Sandwell	129	100
Sefton	122	100
Sheffield	51	27
Shropshire	167	100
Slough	38	81
Solihull	40	45
Somerset	135	49
Southampton	64	74
Southend on Sea	57	100
South Gloucestershire	114	100
South Tyneside	72	100
Southwark	90	87
Staffordshire	267	64
St Helens	73	95
Stockport	120	92
Stockton	86	100
Stoke	107	100
Suffolk	130	37
Sunderland	120	100

Annex 1

LEA	Schools connected Number	Schools connected Percentage
Surrey	382	93
Sutton	30	49
Swindon	83	100
Tameside	103	100
Telford and Wrekin	87	100
Thurrock	59	100
Torbay	41	91
Tower Hamlets	96	96
Trafford	94	95
Wakefield	125	80
Walsall	129	100
Waltham Forest	88	97
Wandsworth	80	99
Warrington	90	100
Warwickshire	156	61
West Berkshire	49	57
Westminster	56	100
West Sussex	185	62
Wigan	145	100
Wiltshire	188	71
Wirral	131	95
Wokingham	59	92
Wolverhampton	117	100
Worcestershire	145	53
York	67	96

Bullying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 472W, on bullying, what the *(a)* membership, *(b)* funding for 2005–06 from her Department and *(c)* terms of reference are of the (i) Youth Crime Programme Board, (ii) Crime Reduction Delivery Board, (iii) Penalty Notices for Disorder operational working group, (iv) Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Programme Board and (v) Safer Schools Partnership steering group; what work each has commissioned; and how often each have met since being established. [4898]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Youth Crime Programme Board (YCPB)

(a) Membership—chaired by DfES, YCPB brings together key stakeholders from across DfES: Preventing Youth Offending; Improving Behaviour and Attendance Unit; Looked After Children; Positive Programmes; Offenders Learning and Skills Unit; Families Division and PSHE and Citizenship. Home Office: Head of Youth Crime; Juvenile Offenders Unit; Treatment of Young People and Drugs Unit; Violent Crime and Crime Reduction. Youth Justice Board: Director of Policy. Government Offices for the Regions and Department of Health.

(b) Funding from DfES 2005–06—there is no specific DfES funding.

(c) Terms of reference—to:

act as the key forum across Government for making policy decisions on cross-cutting issues relating to youth crime;

develop an understanding of the DfES contribution to youth crime and how that may be maximised;

provide support and challenge for policies relating to youth crime in DfES/HO/ Youth Justice Board (YJB);

identify and contribute to the resolution of risks and issues relating to youth crime policy; and

agree issues, risks and progress to be communicated to the Change for Children Programme Board and the Home Office Crime Reduction Delivery Board.

(d) Work commissioned—The main purpose of the board is not to commission work but to ensure that relevant Government policies are joined up. However, the board have also commissioned work to look at the risks associated with the onset of offending and how DfES' existing policies impact on these. It also proposed an anti-robbery week in schools called 'Stay Safe' which subsequently took place in January 2005.

(e) How often met—first met July 2004 and has met five times since.

(ii) Crime Reduction Delivery Board

(a) Membership—chaired by the Home Office, is a cross-departmental group of officials and stakeholders established in May 2003 to drive forward and give strategic focus to multi-agency efforts to reduce all forms of crime, including anti-social behaviour. This group includes representatives from frontline delivery services as well as Department of Health, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Youth Justice Board, DfES and others.

(b) Funding from DfES 2005–06—there is no specific DfES funding.

(c) Terms of reference—to:

receive and agree an all-source assessment of current crime trends/issues in relation to Home Office crime reduction PSAs and commission action where necessary;

issue a regular report on that assessment to the Home Secretary;

monitor performance in respect of crime targets and levels of public confidence in crime reduction;

take papers at each meeting on one or at most two key issues;

agree the contribution of the police, local government, other Government Departments and other agencies in reducing crime and increasing public confidence; and

ensure that crime reduction implications are taken into account in work across the criminal justice system and in other Government Departments.

(d) Work commissioned—from time to time commissions papers or work from Board members. Recent commissions have included work that led to the establishment of the Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Strategy, a report on knife crime leading to the inclusion of knife crime measures in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill currently before Parliament, and the work on alcohol fuelled crime, which has led to the recent initiatives by the licensed trade around promotions such as happy hours.

(e) How often met—monthly.

(iii) Operational Working Group for the 10–15s Penalty Notices for Disorder

(a) Membership—representatives from the seven police forces taking part in the pilot, representatives from DfES, Department of Health, Crown Prosecution Service, Children's Society, Department for Constitutional Affairs, Youth Justice Board and Police Information Technology Organisation.

(b) Funding from DfES 2005–06—there is no specific DfES funding.

(c) Terms of reference—to develop the operational processing guidance for the PNDs specifically tailored for the 10–15 age group and have an overview of the start of issuing of the tickets.

(d) Work commissioned—commissioned the Penalty Notices for Disorder tickets template, the draft operational guidance and an evaluation report (both quantitative and qualitative) from Research, Development & Statistics (RDS). The RDS report will cover the first year of the 10–15s PNDs being issued and will produce an interim report after six months and a final report at the end of the first year.

(e) How often met—first met on 6 February 2004, and has met five times since then (March, July, October, December 2004 and February 2005. The May 2005 meeting has recently been rescheduled for August.

(iv) Prolific and other Priority Offenders Programme Board

(a) Membership—chaired by Leigh Lewis, Home Office Permanent Secretary for Crime, Policing, Counter Terrorism and Delivery. Membership comprises senior representation from the key stakeholders involved in delivering the strategy. Attendees are from a sufficiently high level so as to ensure they have the full authority to take decisions on behalf of the organisation they represent.

(b) Funding from DfES 2005–06—there is no specific DfES funding.

(c) Terms of reference—to provide strategic leadership to implement the Prolific and other Priority Offenders strategy; ensuring that risks are identified and actively managed and taking proactive steps to identify and correct blockages at a senior level across all stakeholders.

(d) Work commissioned—has ensured that all areas of England and Wales have set up a Prolific and other Priority Offenders scheme and that the schemes are actively engaging with their client groups to reduce crime. The board has ensured that this has been delivered locally through mainstream resources.

(e) How often met—once each month since 22 March 2004.

(v) Safer School Partnership Steering Group

(a) Membership—attended by the projects' partners; the Home Office, Youth Justice Board and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Offices), ConfEd (Confederation of Education and Children's Services Managers), Local Government Association, police officers and head teachers.

(b) Funding from DfES 2005–06—Funding for financial year 2005–06 is still under negotiation. Equivalent amount of the last financial year—£300,000 has been earmarked.

(c) Terms of reference—The original terms of reference for the steering group in 2002 were to oversee the development and implementation of the Safer School Partnerships (police in schools) strand of the Behaviour Improvement Package. This aims to agree

partnerships involving 100 police officers based in schools by end September 2002. These are to be in police force areas among the 10 "high crime" areas in England. This has been delivered and more recent figures show that there are now over 400 SSPs across England.

(d) Work commissioned—DfES has commissioned:

(1) Work to pull together examples of good practice on introducing SSPs—subsequently published in October 2004.

(2) University of York to produce a SSP Mainstreaming Report. Draft report complete in April 2005.

(3) Funds Crime Concern to provide monitoring and support to SSPs

The Youth Justice Board has commissioned:

(1) PRB (Public Policy Research Bureau) to produce a national evaluation for year 2002/03. This was published in November 2004.

(2) University of York to produce a national evaluation for year 2003/04, to be published in July 2005.

(e) How often met—every month in the first year and then had bi-monthly meetings. Since its establishment the group has met 23 times. The four partners meet regularly to discuss issues.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what research she has evaluated on the prevalence of bullying; [4902]

(2) how many complaints about the handling of bullying in schools have been received by *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* her Department in each of the last five years; [4901]

(3) what data schools are required to collect on incidents of bullying. [4899]

Jacqui Smith: On the question of the prevalence of data and its evaluation I refer the hon. Member to my response on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 187W.

We do not hold data on bullying complaints received by local authorities. Each complaint received in the Department is dealt with. However we do not keep a statistical record of complaints.

There is no requirement on schools to collect data on incidents of bullying. However, the effective practice digest that accompanies the anti-bullying Charter for Action recommends that schools should keep a record, and should analyse it for patterns, for example of who is bullied and where bullying takes place.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the progress of the Change for Children Programme; and what assessment she has made of its effectiveness in improving behaviour in schools. [4904]

Jacqui Smith: Since publishing the Every Child Matters: Change for Children document last December we have made good progress on implementing the programme. For example, all local authorities are working with their partners to put in place children's trust arrangements and focus services on delivering better outcomes for children and young people in their area. Over half expect to have children's trust arrangements in place by April 2006 and all by 2008.

Improving behaviour in schools is a priority for the Government. Children's trusts will work with local partners including schools to identify the needs in the area and put in place action to tackle those needs, which might include improving behaviour. We have made clear our expectation that all secondary schools should be working together in collaboration by September 2007 to improve behaviour and attendance. To be successful they will need to be fully linked into local Change for Children programmes, and be reflected in Children and Young People's Plans.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 472W, on bullying and anti-social behaviour, if she will list the *(a)* published research and *(b)* statistics to which she refers. [5032]

Jacqui Smith: From the Department's Statistical First Release data on exclusions from school, we know that there is an association between a school's permanent exclusion rate and its pupils' GCSE attainment: generally those schools with high permanent exclusion rates tend to have lower levels of pupil attainment.

Source:

DfES (2004) Permanent Exclusions from Maintained Schools in England, 2002/2003' DfES Statistical First Release SFR 42/2004.

From the NFER Excellence in Cities (EiC) Attendance Analysis, we know that once pupil, school and background characteristics are taken into account, there is an association between absence rates and pupil attainment. The research shows that higher than average absence levels were associated with reduced GCSE attainment (especially for boys) and KS3 English attainment.

Source:

Morris & Rutt (2004) 'Analysis of Pupil Attendance Data in Excellence in Cities (EiC) Areas: An Interim Report' DfES Research Report RR571.

In terms of bullying, although the Department has not commissioned research specifically to look at the impact of bullying on attainment, we did commission a research review on homophobic bullying, which looked at the prevalence and impact of this on young people. The research concluded that homophobic bullying had negative impacts such as absence from school, limited achievement and lower staying on rates.

Source:

Warwick, Chase, Aggleton & Sanders (2004) 'Homophobia, Sexual Orientation and Schools: a review and implications for action' DfES Research Report RR594.

Furthermore, the 2003 PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) work co-ordinated by the OECD (the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) showed that 88 per cent. of UK headteachers thought that the learning of students was hindered a little or "to some extent" by students intimidating or bullying other students.

It must be noted that the relationships between bullying, truancy, exclusion, social exclusion, and negative outcomes such as poor attainment and poor behaviour are complex and difficult to analyse.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 472W, on bullying, what

cross-departmental initiatives have been put in place to tackle *(a)* bullying, *(b)* low level disruptive behaviour and *(c)* truancy; and what assessment she has made of their effectiveness. [5033]

Jacqui Smith: We are committed to supporting cross-departmental, multi-agency approaches to reducing poor behaviour in schools and truancy. They include:

over 400 Safer School Partnerships that base police officers in schools. These officers contribute significantly to improving pupil behaviour, especially where the partnership is part of a strategic approach to behaviour improvement;

regular national truancy sweeps by the police and local authorities that have so far caught nearly 40,000 truants;

over 140 Behaviour and Education Support Teams that bring together education, health and social care professionals to support schools, pupils and their families. Early evidence indicates that these teams are effective in improving behaviour and reducing exclusions and truancy;

Skill Force, a charity sponsored by the Ministry of Defence and the DfES, that provides teams including ex-service personnel to work with disaffected pupils. A recent London University Institute of Education evaluation indicated a 78 per cent. reduction in exclusions for Skill Force participants.

Bury Lawn School, Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will commission an inquiry into the relations between parents and school administrators, Global Education Management Systems, at Bury Lawn school in Milton Keynes. [5284]

Jacqui Smith: Bury Lawn school is an independent school. Like other independent schools, it is registered with the Department and is subject to regular inspection. All independent schools must reach and maintain satisfactory standards of education, health, safety and welfare which are set out in regulations, in order to achieve and maintain registration. These standards do not interfere with the freedom of independent schools to manage their own affairs, including the commercial relationship between the school and parents. In the case of Bury Lawn, the dispute is not related to our statutory minimum standards, so the Secretary of State has no power to intervene.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the academy project in Milton Keynes following the withdrawal of Global Education Management Systems from the project. [5285]

Jacqui Smith: Proposals for an academy in Milton Keynes are at a very early stage. No formal project has been agreed there. We had been in discussion with GEMS and with Milton Keynes council about the proposal but no agreement was reached. Academies officials are continuing their discussions with a range of sponsors about potential academy projects around the country, including the proposal in Milton Keynes.

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether qualified teachers working in schools under the control of local education authorities are entitled to participate in the Government's child care voucher scheme; and if she will make a statement. [5262]

Jacqui Smith: The scheme referred to works on the basis of 'salary sacrifice'. School teachers at maintained schools in England and Wales are not eligible to participate in salary sacrifice schemes. The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document, the statutory framework governing teachers' pay, makes no provision for permitting a reduction in salary in any circumstances. However, any teachers may be paid recruitment and retention incentives and benefits of any value or nature, including child care vouchers, in addition to their salary.

Citizenship Curriculum

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans she has for reform of the citizenship curriculum; [5744]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to promote volunteering within the citizenship curriculum; [5745]

(3) what steps her Department has taken to support teachers in the delivery of the citizenship curriculum. [5748]

Jacqui Smith: The Secretary of State has asked the QCA to review curricular provision at Key Stage 3 to ensure that it provides the springboard into the reformed 14–19 phase. As part of this, QCA will review the content of citizenship and the non-statutory framework for personal, social and health education in order to ensure greater coherence between the two. The review must ensure that young people secure the key discipline concepts and content in each of the subjects.

The Department has funded Active Citizens in Schools (ACiS)—a pilot which builds on principles of millennium volunteers to encourage 11 to 15-year-olds to make a commitment to volunteering in line with the citizenship curriculum and encourage them to become millennium volunteers when they reach the age of 16. Piloted over three years from 2001, the programme tested how schools can ensure that volunteering activities in which young people engage support curricular objectives, in particular active citizenship through community involvement. We have funded the development of a best practice guide which we are currently disseminating.

Detailed guidance, produced by the Qualifications and the Curriculum Authority on the teaching of citizenship has been sent to all schools. The Department has also produced a dedicated website including a database giving teachers access to resource materials to support classroom practice. In addition, we have funded the production of a school self-evaluation tool to support schools in monitoring their progress in citizenship education. We have also put in place a package to support teacher continuing professional development (CPD) which involves

(a) a CPD handbook of good practice, and

(b) piloting in three centres around the country of CPD certification of effective teaching in citizenship.

City Academies

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her Answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 331W and 13 June (ref 3259), on city academies, what proportion of lessons in city academies that have been examined by Ofsted were setted. [5015]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not collected by either the DfES or Ofsted and there are no plans to do so.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the decision not to include city academies in the two-tier workforce regulations was taken; and what representations were received *(a)* from trade unions and *(b)* from other bodies prior to this decision. [4769]

Jacqui Smith: Academies are registered independent schools, run by Trusts which are charitable companies limited by guarantee. As such, they are not bound by the same legislative framework as maintained schools, including the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Public Sector Service Contracts.

In response to a consultation to apply the local government Best Value Code to schools in the maintained sector, run by my Department, a total of 21 representations were received of which six were from the Trade Unions with the majority of the remainder from national partner organisations and local education authorities. The vast majority of respondents to the consultations welcomed the new Code, and the introduction of specific regulations to afford protection to school staff.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in each city academy are entitled to free school meals; how many pupils in schools which formed the basis of each new academy were entitled to free school meals; and what proportion of the school's intake each figure represents in each case. [4772]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is given in the table.

Academies and their predecessor schools: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[1] Position in January each year: 2002 to 2005 (provisional)[2]

			2002	
		Number of pupils3	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for school meals*
133386	Greig City Academy	—	—	—
102160	St. David and St. Katharine CofE School	859	338	39.3
133768	Unity City Academy	—	—	—
111750	Keldrome School	658	308	46.8
111738	Langbaurgh School	457	257	56.2
133769	The Business Academy Bexley	—	—	—
101469	Thamesmead Community College	615	282	45.9
134226	Capital City Academy	—	—	—
101551	Willesden High School	622	254	40.8
134222	City of London Academy	—	—	—
133697	The Walsall City Academy	—	—	—
104244	TP Riley School	395	201	50.9
134225	The Academy at Peckham	—	—	—
100848	Warwick Park School	960	636	66.3
134223	The King's Academy	—	—	—
111752	Brackenhoe Comprehensive	473	254	53.7
111743	Coulby Newham School	712	236	33.1
134369	The West London Academy	—	—	—
101929	Compton Sports College	758	298	39.3
134253	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	—	—	—
122946	Djanogly CTC	1,035	276	26.7
122887	Forest Comprehensive School	327	193	59.0
134221	The City Academy Bristol	—	—	—
109291	St. George Community College	1,004	317	31.6
134224	Manchester Academy	—	—	—
105567	Dulcie High School	551	395	71.7
134797	Stockley Academy	—	—	—
102427	Evelyns Community School	665	217	32.6

Academies and their predecessor schools: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[1] Position in January each year: 2002 to 2005 (provisional)[2]

		2002		
		Number of pupils[3]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for school meals*
134798	London Academy	—	—	—
101344	Edgware School	1,111	427	38.4
134815	Lambeth Academy	—	—	—
134693	Mossbourne Community Academy	—	—	—
134814	Northampton Academy	—	—	—
122078	Lings Upper School	633	181	28.6

		2003		
		Number of pupils[3]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for school meals*
133386	Greig City Academy	845	364	43.1
102160	St.. David and St. Katharine CofE School	—	—	—
133768	Unity City Academy	1,160	570	49.1
111750	Keldrome School	—	—	—
111738	Langbaurgh School	—	—	—
133769	The Business Academy Bexley	711	297	41.8
101469	Thamesmead Community College	—	—	—
134226	Capital City Academy	—	—	—
101551	Willesden High School	689	288	41.8
134222	City of London Academy	—	—	—
133697	The Walsall City Academy	—	—	—
104244	TP Riley School	294	149	50.7
134225	The Academy at Peckham	—	—	—
100848	Warwick Park School	950	603	63.5
134223	The King's Academy	—	—	—
111752	Brackerhoe Comprehensive	438	247	56.4
111743	Coulby Newham School	737	240	32.6
134369	The West London Academy	—	—	—
101929	Compton Sports College	724	302	41.7
134253	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	—	—	—
122946	Djanogly CTC	1,363	414	30.4
122887	Forest Comprehensive School	—	—	—
134221	The City Academy Bristol	—	—	—
109291	St. George Community College	1,051	373	35.5
134224	Manchester Academy	—	—	—
105567	Dulcie High School	575	362	63.0
134797	Stockley Academy	—	—	—
102427	Evelyns Community School	581	253	43.5
134798	London Academy	—	—	—
101344	Edgware School	1,131	433	38.3
134815	Lambeth Academy	—	—	—
134693	Mossbourne Community Academy	—	—	—
134814	Northampton Academy	—	—	—
122078	Lings Upper School	697	230	33.0

			2004	
		Number of pupils3	Number of pupils known to be eligible for school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for school meals
133386	Greig City Academy	758	345	46.7
102160	St.. David and St. Katharine CofE School	—	—	—
133768	Unity City Academy	1,126	559	49.6
111750	Keldrome School	—	—	—
111738	Langbaurgh School	—	—	—
133769	The Business Academy Bexley	836	306	36.6
101469	Thamesmead Community College	—	—	—
134226	Capital City Academy	841	327	38.9
101551	Willesden High School	—	—	—
134222	City of London Academy	177	44	24.9
133697	The Walsall City Academy	449	115	25.6
104244	TP Riey School	—	—	—
134225	The Academy at Peckham	987	592	60.0
100848	Warwick Park School	—	—	—
134223	The King's Academy	1,037	389	37.5
111752	Brackerhoe Comprehensive	—	—	—
111743	Coulby Newham School	—	—	—
134369	The West London Academy	780	322	41.3
101929	Compton Sports College	—	—	—
134253	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	1,482	591	35.0
122946	Djanogly CTC	—	—	—
122887	Forest Comprehensive School	—	—	—
134221	The City Academy Bristol	1,086	386	35.5
109291	St. George Community College	—	—	—
134224	Manchester Academy	685	347	50.7
105567	Dulcie High School	—	—	—
134797	Stockley Academy	—	—	—
102427	Evelyns Community School	541	229	42.3
134798	London Academy	—	—	—
101344	Edgware School	1,147	455	39.7
134815	Lambeth Academy	—	—	—
134693	Mossbourne Community Academy	—	—	—
134814	Northampton Academy	—	—	—
122078	Lings Upper School	745	197	26.4

			2005 (provisional)[2]	
		Number of pupils[3]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for school meals
133386	Greig City Academy	710	320	44.2
102160	St.. David and St. Katharine CofE School	—	—	—
133768	Unity City Academy	1,120	550	48.6
111750	Keldrome School	—	—	—
111738	Langbaurgh School	—	—	—
133769	The Business Academy Bexley	1,380	520	37.9
101469	Thamesmead Community College	—	—	—

		Number of pupils[3]	2005 (provisional)[2] Number of pupils known to be eligible for school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for school meals
134226	Capital City Academy	910	310	34.4
101551	Willesden High School	—	—	—
134222	City of London Academy	360	100	27.4
133697	The Walsall City Academy	630	100	15.9
104244	TP Riley School	—	—	—
134225	The Academy at Peckham	1,080	700	64.6
100848	Warwick Park School	—	—	—
134223	The King's Academy	1,040	330	31.5
111752	Brackenhoe Comprehensive	—	—	—
111743	Coulby Newham School	—	—	—
134369	The West London Academy	1,130	470	42.0
101929	Compton Sports College	—	—	—
134253	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	1,580	560	35.5
122946	Djanogly CTC	—	—	—
122887	Forest Comprehensive School	—	—	—
134221	The City Academy Bristol	1,100	410	37.4
109291	St. George Community College	—	—	—
134224	Manchester Academy	730	340	61.8
105567	Dulcie High School	—	—	—
134797	Stockley Academy	580	360	44.3
102427	Evelyns Community School	—	—	—
134798	London Academy	1,200	510	42.6
101344	Edgware School	—	—	—
134815	Lambeth Academy	180	20	8.7
134693	Mossbourne Community Academy	220	80	37.6
134814	Northampton Academy	1,240	240	18.2
122078	Lings Upper School	—	—	—

[1] Figures are as reported by schools and are unconfirmed.
[2] Provisional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Includes pupils of all ages. Also includes dualy registered pupils.
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make it her policy that contracts entered into by city academies should be subject to competitive tendering; and if she will make a statement. [4774]

Jacqui Smith: Academies are bound by their Funding Agreements to follow the good practices and procedures set out within the Academies Financial Handbook, which is published by my Department. This document sets out guidance on establishing and maintaining good financial systems and controls, drawing on best practice from both the public and private sectors, including procurement procedures.

The purchasing and contracting of goods and services in Academies is governed—as for other public bodies—by the core principles of probity, accountability and value for money, with governing bodies being required to demonstrate the proper and effective use of public funds. All Academies will have a tendering policy, which will take account of such issues as conflicts of interest; levels of delegation and whether contracts can be entered into by staff or need to be referred to the governing body; the number and requirements of tenders and procedures for their submission and opening; the thresholds above and below which telephone or written tenders need to be obtained; and the documenting of decisions accepting tenders or quotes other than the lowest price. Such policies will also identify where contracts are of sufficient value that they would require tendering under European (OJEU) procurement rules.

English Grammar

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the teaching of grammar in the English curriculum of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [5006]

Jacqui Smith: There are well-established national expectations for what children should achieve as they move through primary school, set out in termly word, sentence and text level objectives. The vast majority of maintained primary schools in England teach these through a daily Literacy Hour as recommended by the National Literacy Strategy Framework for Teaching.

The Framework for teaching English at KS3 and 4 includes guidance on vocabulary, punctuation, sentence construction, grammar and style. It incorporates key principles and activities for the teaching and learning of writing, including sentence-level grammar, appropriate to individual year groups

English SATs

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 193W, regarding the Key Stage 3 English test, (1) if she will place in the Library the marking guidelines for that test; [5024]

(2) what proportion of the marks in the Key Stage 3 test in English are explicitly awarded for spelling in *(a)* the shorter writing test, *(b)* the longer writing test and *(c)* overall, as set out in the mark scheme document; [5824]

(3) if she will ask the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to revise marking guidelines for the Shakespeare paper of the Key Stage 3 English Test to ensure spelling is taken into account in assessing performance. [6016]

Jacqui Smith: I have today placed copies of the qualifications and Curriculum Authority's mark scheme for the 2005 Key Stage 3 English test in the Library.

The proportion of marks awarded for spelling in the Key Stage 3 test in English are 20 per cent. for the shorter writing task, none for the longer writing task and 4 per cent. of the overall English marks. As the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority have said that they will keep that allocation under review, I do not plan to ask them to revise the marking guideline for the Shakespeare paper.

EU Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the potential for EU students to avoid deferred fee payments made through the PAYE system once they return to their country of origin after graduation. [4207]

Bill Rammell: We anticipate relying on European Council regulation 44/2001 for the recovery of debt from borrowers who live in other parts of the EU. Robust procedures will be in place to ensure that graduates who return to their home countries pay amounts owed when due and that the risk of default is minimised.

Food Programmes

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the forthcoming people first skills strategy will provide an opportunity for non-industry public interest groups to make representations on the need for food preparation and cooking programmes. [5299]

Jacqui Smith: People 1st (the sector skills council for the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries) have developed a strategy for qualifications for the food preparation and cooking sector and are currently scoping units to meet the industry's needs. The development of the content of these units will be done in collaboration with a range of partners including non-industry public interest groups.

GCSEs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students did not achieve five A* to C passes in each year since 1997. [5405]

Jacqui Smith: The information on the number of 15-year-olds not achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE is provided in the following table.

	Number of 15-year-old pupils not achieving 5 or more A-C*	*Number of 15-year-old pupils*	*Percentage of pupils not achieving 5 or more A*-C grades*
2004[1]	297,970	643,574	46.3
2003[2]	292,740	622,122	47.1
2002	293,815	606,554	48.4
2001	301,701	603,318	50.0
2000	294,666	580,393	50.8
1999	302,412	580,972	52.1
1998	308,779	575,210	53.7
1997	321,874	586,766	54.9

[1] 2004 figures are revised and based on GCSE and equivalents basis

[2] Figures between 1997 and 2003 only included GCSEs and GNVQs.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils have left secondary school with a language GCSE Grade C or above in each London borough in each year since 1997. [5150]

Jacqui Smith: The information on the number of 15-year-olds in maintained schools achieving at least one modern language GCSE at Grade C or above in each London borough between 1997 and 2004 is provided in the following table.

Number and percentages of 15-year-old pupils in maintained schools achieving at least one modern language GCSE at Grade C or above

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	No.	percentage	No.	percentage	No.	percentage	No.	percentage
City of London								
Camden	638	38	711	41	790	48	752	44
Greenwich	544	23	530	23	659	28	523	23
Hackney	358	27	364	27	515	36	453	32
Hammersmith and Fulham	261	26	394	40	551	57	418	40
Islington	307	22	332	24	379	27	337	25
Kensington and Chelsea	209	38	237	43	301	51	244	41
Lambeth	267	22	283	23	361	29	292	23
Lewisham	415	21	490	24	584	28	600	29
Southwark	315	18	352	20	366	20	304	17
Tower Hamlets	758	32	790	35	832	37	797	34
Wandsworth	392	24	472	29	604	35	603	35
City of Westminster	368	28	401	31	472	37	431	32
Barking and Dagenham	336	20	308	18	393	23	382	22
Barnet	1,323	41	1,534	47	1,902	58	1,662	50
Bexley	850	34	903	36	1,065	42	1,054	40
Brent	701	33	789	36	867	39	874	38
Bromley	1,223	41	1,296	44	1,708	55	1,409	48
Croydon	1,238	38	1,016	31	1,225	39	1,179	37
Ealing	801	32	916	38	1,045	43	943	39
Enfield	1,049	33	1,060	34	1,500	48	1,256	39
Haringey	502	29	559	31	654	37	708	38
Harrow	797	38	833	40	1,027	52	931	45
Havering	756	27	938	34	1,088	41	975	37
Hillingdon	670	27	784	32	948	38	878	35
Hounslow	811	31	908	36	981	39	869	34
Kingston upon Thames	560	43	638	48	720	54	669	50
Merton	374	24	399	25	427	27	479	31
Newham	770	29	806	29	1,001	35	950	32
Redbridge	1,013	39	1,181	45	1,471	54	1,348	46
Richmond upon Thames	535	35	541	38	690	47	568	40
Sutton	862	43	924	47	1,304	64	1,083	53
Waltham Forest	694	31	656	28	752	32	686	29
London	20,697	31	22,345	34	27,182	41	24,657	37

	2001		2002		2003		2004[1]	
	No.	percentage	No.	percentage	No.	percentage	No.	percentage
City of London								
Camden	709	43	600	42	526	37	587	41
Greenwich	616	27	550	23	432	18	466	18
Hackney	475	34	451	31	430	31	424	33
Hammersmith and Fulham	448	43	457	42	495	44	492	42
Islington	341	25	423	31	416	32	410	29
Kensington and Chelsea	282	48	281	49	300	51	284	49
Lambeth	308	24	333	26	374	28	386	28
Lewisham	655	30	644	30	583	26	597	26
Southwark	347	19	401	21	357	18	428	21
Tower Hamlets	809	33	832	35	883	35	754	31
Wandsworth	656	37	647	36	587	33	575	31
City of Westminster	467	37	484	37	505	38	496	35
Barking and Dagenham	357	21	284	17	295	17	302	15
Barnet	1,678	49	1,756	51	1,678	48	1,786	50
Bexley	1,111	39	999	36	1,016	34	1,064	35
Brent	902	38	1,020	39	1,002	38	1,030	39
Bromley	1,455	45	1,511	45	1,365	40	1,411	39
Croydon	1,247	37	1,291	39	1,146	33	1,175	32
Ealing	987	41	879	36	992	37	974	36
Enfield	1,333	40	1,264	38	1,304	39	1,321	39
Haringey	718	39	714	37	657	33	734	34
Harrow	904	44	952	46	922	43	993	45
Havering	1,140	40	1,213	42	1,213	42	1,350	44
Hillingdon	821	31	795	31	768	29	887	30
Hounslow	951	36	977	38	957	36	974	37
Kingston upon Thames	702	51	692	50	707	50	683	46
Merton	433	29	394	25	407	26	421	26
Newham	1,081	36	1,085	37	988	32	1,140	36

	2001 No./percentage		2002 No./percentage		2003 No./percentage		2004[1] No./percentage	
Redbridge	1,438	51	1,476	51	1,415	47	1,379	46
Richmond upon Thames	646	44	603	41	604	41	553	37
Sutton	1,120	51	1,240	55	1,197	51	1,364	52
Waltham Forest	783	33	806	34	736	31	784	30
London	25,920	38	26,054	38	25,257	36	26,224	36

[1] 2004 figures are revised.

Higher Education Institutions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many departments of *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* physics and *(e)* mathematics there were in higher education institutions in England in each year between 1994 and 2004; and what the projected numbers are for each year from 2005 to 2010. [3103]

Bill Rammell: Information on the closure, merger or opening of particular university courses and departments is not collected by the Department. Higher Education Institutions are autonomous organisations responsible for their own academic direction and strategic use of funds, and any decisions on closures of departments are made by them, not by Government or the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The then Secretary of State for Education and Skills wrote to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) at the beginning of December 2004 asking their advice on what types of action should be considered to strengthen and secure subjects of strategic national importance, including mathematics and science. HEFCE have set up an expert group to look at this issue and to report to the HEFCE board this month. The board will inform Ministers of the outcome.

Home-School Agreements

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 13 June, Ref 4022, regarding home-school agreements, if she will request from Ofsted the number of schools that have drawn up home-school agreements. [5023]

Jacqui Smith: Ofsted does not collect this information. During inspections Ofsted looks generally at whether a school is meeting its statutory requirements. However, it does not look specifically at whether a school has a Home-School Agreement (HSA) in place. As I said in my earlier reply, we expect all maintained schools to have HSAs in place.

London Fringe Allowance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will extend the London fringe allowance for teachers to include Castle Point; and if she will make a statement. [5796]

Jacqui Smith: There are no plans to extend the London fringe allowance for teachers' pay. However, any teachers may be paid recruitment and retention incentives and benefits of any value or nature in addition to their salary, and this is a matter for their schools to decide in the light of local circumstances.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research her Department has conducted on the impact of ending the teacher salary London fringe allowance at the A130 on teacher recruitment and retention to the east of the A130; and if she will make a statement. [5797]

Jacqui Smith: The Department has not conducted research on the impact on teacher recruitment and retention east of the A130. The Department does evaluate the impact of teachers' pay arrangements and the strategies used to support recruitment and retention. Recent evidence to the School Teachers' Review Body, submitted jointly with our partners from teacher unions and employers, points to the positive impact these strategies are having on teacher recruitment and retention while accepting that there continue to be pressures in places. All schools have discretion to use recruitment and retention incentives to ease any local pressures they face.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* inner, *(b)* outer and *(c)* fringe allowances for teaching salaries in the last year for which figures are available. [5798]

Jacqui Smith: The figures requested are in the following table.

Costs in £ million

Financial year	Inner London	Outer London	Fringe areas	Total
2003–04[1]	—	83	27	111
2002–03	116	71	24	211
2001–02	109	67	22	197
2000–01	83	51	17	150

[1] Inner London allowances were abolished in April 2003 with the introduction of the Inner London Pay Scales.

Mathematics

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidelines accompany the Framework for Teaching Mathematics: Reception to Year 6 document. [5001]

Jacqui Smith: A range of documents have been produced that develop further the guidance set out in the Framework. Key guidance documents include "Mathematical Vocabulary" which lists the important vocabulary for all year groups; "Teaching Mental Calculation Strategies; Teaching Written Calculations" and sample medium-term lesson plans to demonstrate to teachers how to plan for progression in mathematics.

National Literacy Strategy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on proposed changes to the National Literacy Strategy. [4765]

Bill Rammell: We have appointed Jim Rose to make recommendations on best practice in the teaching of early reading and synthetic phonics in primary schools and early years settings, covering content and pace of learning. He will also make recommendations on the best support for children with significant literacy difficulties to enable them to catch up with their peers, and the relationship between such targeted intervention programmes with synthetic phonics.

Mr. Rose's recommendations will draw on an examination of both academic research and classroom best practice in schools and early years settings, as well as recent reports by the Education and Skills Select Committee, Ofsted and the Clackmannanshire study. He will provide an interim report in November 2005 and make final recommendations early in 2006. Mr. Rose's findings will inform a renewal of the National Literacy Strategy framework for teaching.

New Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the requirement for building new schools in England. [5909]

Jacqui Smith: The demand for building new schools will depend on local factors such as pupil numbers, the capacity of existing schools, and the condition and suitability of existing buildings. Whether it is better value to refurbish or extend an existing school or to build new is a matter for local option appraisal and discussion. Local authorities assess these factors and we do not collect this information centrally.

Nutrition

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether nutrition education was included in the training of school catering managers between 1975 and 1990. [5286]

Jacqui Smith: We have no record of a specific qualification for school catering managers between 1975 and 1990.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will recommend that the School Food Trust consider the NVQ approach to work-based assessment of nutritional competence at levels 1 to 4. [5300]

Jacqui Smith: We are working with People 1st (the sector skills council for the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries), the Food Standards Agency, the Teacher Training Agency, the Learning and Skills Council and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to review and build on the range of catering qualifications that are currently available, including NVQs. Our aim is to ensure that we have a ladder of qualifications that include information on nutritional standards where appropriate, meet the skills needs of all catering staff, and support progression from the level 1 VRQ.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the timetable is for the review of school nutrition standards. [5606]

Jacqui Smith: The School Meals Review Panel will make their recommendations to Ministers on the new draft nutritional standards in early September. A public consultation will follow, in the usual manner. The new standards will become mandatory in schools from September 2006.

Out-of-Hours Learning

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what her estimate is of the proportion of secondary schools that are ensuring that children in years 10 and 11 are set, on average, between one and a half and two and a half hours of homework per day; [4014]

(2) what her estimate is of the proportion of secondary schools that are ensuring that children in year 9 are set, on average, between one and two hours of homework per day; [4016]

(3) what her estimate is of the proportion of secondary schools that are ensuring that children in years 7 and 8 are set, on average, between 45 and 90 minutes of homework per day; [4017]

(4) what her estimate is of the proportion of primary schools that are ensuring that children in years 3 and 4 are set, on average, about one and a half hours of homework per week; [4018]

(5) what her estimate is of the proportion of primary schools that are ensuring that children in years 5 and 6 are set, on average, about 30 minutes of homework per day; [4019]

(6) what her estimate is of the proportion of primary schools that are ensuring that children in years 1 and 2 are set, on average, about one hour of homework per week; [4020]

(7) what her estimate is of the proportion of schools that have a written policy on homework which is publicly available on request; [4021]

(8) what her assessment is of progress in improving homework policies within *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools since the publication of the relevant guidelines in November 1998. [4028]

Jacqui Smith: The Government considers that learning at home is an essential part of the good education to which all our children are entitled. We know, and Ofsted confirm, that a well organised homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, independent life long learning. Currently my Department does not collect information on individual school's homework policies or the amount of homework they set. We believe it is for schools themselves to make their own decisions in this area, taking account of the Homework Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools we provide. Home-school agreements, which we introduced in 1999, promote partnerships between schools and parents, and assist parents in supporting their children's learning at home, including their completion of homework.

Overseas Students

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many EU students commenced courses at English universities in each year since 1997, broken down by member state; and how much was paid by them in tuition fees in each of those years. [4849]

Bill Rammell: The two tables given in this answer give data from different sources and hence the two sets of figures are not comparable.

The available information on the number of EU domiciled entrants to full time undergraduate courses at English HE institutions is given in the following table.

EU domiciled entrants[1,2,3] to full time undergraduate courses at English HE institutions for academic years 1997/98 to 2003/04

Domicile	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Austria	355	410	380	410	340	370	405
Belgium	580	600	615	570	530	505	565
Denmark	525	575	545	480	485	490	465
Finland	990	1,030	845	740	655	575	575
France	4,465	5,320	5,075	4,775	4,425	4,370	4,645
Germany	3,785	4,615	4,400	4,285	3,775	3,765	3,815
Gibraltar	130	165	150	200	140	140	140
Greece	6,500	5,925	5,120	4,230	3,030	2,415	1,905
Irish Republic	2,145	2,035	1,670	1,275	1,220	1,225	1,400
Italy	1,325	1,615	1,645	1,605	1,505	1,500	1,395
Luxembourg	130	140	140	155	135	140	140
Netherlands	595	790	720	615	500	555	530
Portugal	450	440	455	445	450	440	510
Spain	2,505	3,045	3,025	2,870	2,885	2,715	2,850
Sweden	1,330	1,405	1,320	1,175	995	930	890
Total EU	25,815	28,105	26,105	23,835	21,070	20,135	20,230

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and so totals may not sum.
[2] Figures include entrants to 1st degree, foundation degree, HND/C, Diploma of HE and other undergraduate diplomas, certificates and credits.
[3] HESA entrant figures are not directly comparable to accepted applicant figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) due to differences in coverage.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

The amount of private contributions to tuition fees by students from the European Union in HE in English institutions from academic year 1999/2000 to 2003/04 is given in the following table.

Private contributions to tuition fees by students domiciled in the European Union studying higher education in England for academic years 1999/2000[1] to 2003/04[2]

Academic year	£ million
1999/2000	6.7
2000/01	7.6
2001/02	6.1
2002/03	5.7
2003/04	5.5

[1] Tuition fees were introduced in academic year 1998/99, however as that year was treated as a transitional year, data are not available on the same basis as subsequent years.
[2] Latest year for which data are available.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from EU member states applied for entry to English universities in 2004–05; and how many were offered a place, broken down by EU member state. [4850]

Bill Rammell: The available information is taken from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which covers applicants and accepted applicants to full time first degree, HMD, Diploma of HE and Foundation degree courses at UCAS member institutions. Figures are given in the table.

EU domiciled applicants[1,2] and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at English institutions by domicile, 2004 entry

Number

Country of domicile	Applicants	Accepted applicants
Austria	335	195
Belgium	635	405
Denmark	430	255
Finland	585	300
France	2,980	1,595
Germany	2,605	1,395
Gibraltar	220	165
Greece	2,250	1,370
Irish Republic	7,180	1,510
Italy	865	440
Luxembourg	230	130
Netherlands	490	240
Portugal	680	325
Spain	1,090	645
Sweden	1,235	590
Total EU	21,805	9,560
Cyprus	1,875	1,295
Czech Republic	205	135
Estonia	65	45
Hungary	160	100
Latvia	75	45
Lithuania	95	55
Malta	65	35
Poland	675	445
Slovakia	135	90
Slovenia	55	30
Total EU accession countries	3,410	2,270
Total All EU	25,215	11,830

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five so totals may not sum.

[2] Although the majority of applicants apply through UCAS, it is possible to apply direct to the institution.

Source:

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Partnerships for Schools

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which companies are part of the Partnerships for Schools advisory body; how many of those companies are also advising local authorities on projects; and which companies are part of consortia bidding for projects. [4770]

Jacqui Smith: Partnerships for Schools (PfS) was designated as a non-departmental public body from 1 April 2004 under a joint venture agreement between DfES and Partnerships UK and is a private limited company incorporated under the Companies Act 1985. The company is limited by shares and is wholly owned by the DfES. It has been established to support the local delivery of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Information regarding the companies which are advising local authorities on projects and those which are part of consortia bidding for projects is not held centrally.

Performance Related Pay

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of teachers in England have not qualified for the performance related pay scheme since its establishment. [5652]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is not available in the format requested.

In January 2004 there were 387,500 (headcount) number of regular teachers employed on the classroom and post threshold pay scales. Of these 48 per cent. were employed on the classroom pay scale. It is estimated that around three quarters of these had not reached the highest point of the scale and were therefore not eligible to apply for threshold assessment.

Postgraduates

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many postgraduates gained *(a)* Master of Arts level, *(b)* Master of Science level, *(c)* Master of Business Administration level and *(d)* Master of Philosophy level qualifications from higher education institutions in England in each year between 1994 and 2004. [3237]

Bill Rammell: The Department does not hold specific information on the type of masters degree obtained. The overall number of masters qualifications is in the table:

Masters qualifications at English higher education institutions

	1994/95	*1995/96*	*1996/97*	*1997/98*	*1998/99*
Medicine and dentistry	970	700	1,170	1,125	1,310
Subjects allied to medicine	1,120	1,220	1,510	1,540	1,710
Biological sciences	795	1,055	1,230	1,540	1,715
Veterinary science	30	40	40	50	25
Agriculture and related subjects	460	415	490	420	475
Physical sciences	1,285	1,615	1,660	1,730	1,780
Mathematical sciences	440	560	455	465	380
Computer science	1,515	1,665	1,850	2,135	2,470
Engineering and technology	3,655	4,070	3,885	4,175	4,605
Architecture, building and planning	870	695	770	865	1,045
Social studies	4,145	5,205	5,135	5,655	6,135
Law	915	1,555	1,435	1,970	2,155
Business and administrative studies	7,295	8,600	8,925	9,830	10,435
Mass communications and documentation	485	610	735	865	1,025
Languages	1,590	1,960	1,975	2,220	2,050
Historical and philosophical studies	1,225	1,615	1,755	1,965	2,020
Creative arts and design	1,390	1,510	1,775	2,275	2,275
Education	2,420	2,655	2,630	2,915	2,815
Combined	2,425	2,775	2,635	2,635	2,455
Total	33,025	38,545	40,065	44,370	46,865

	1999/2000	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*
Medicine and dentistry	1,320	1,380	1,420	990	1,445
Subjects allied to medicine	1,780	1,925	1,945	2,170	2,540
Biological sciences	1,965	2,000	2,080	2,750	3,320
Veterinary science	30	65	60	40	30
Agriculture and related subjects	515	415	555	565	680
Physical sciences	1,850	1,740	1,705	1,975	2,575
Mathematical sciences	445	385	540	630	810
Computer science	3,010	3,325	4,040	4,580	4,770
Engineering and technology	4,505	4,925	4,690	4,970	6,050
Architecture, building and planning	1,060	1,125	1,200	1,250	1,585
Social studies	6,675	7,045	7,280	7,290	9,345
Law	2,340	2,610	2,935	3,885	3,790
Business and administrative studies	12,005	13,065	14,480	15,955	20,965
Mass communications and documentation	1,175	1,310	1,595	1,770	2,210

	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Languages	2,330	2,335	2,445	3,120	3,745
Historical and philosophical studies	2,345	1,985	2,380	2,560	2,905
Creative arts and design	2,705	2,955	3,100	3,225	3,465
Education	2,890	2,930	2,990	2,675	2,790
Combined	2,905	2,640	2,335	2,310	30
Total	51,850	54,160	57,785	62,710	73,050

Note:
The figures are taken from the HESA student record which has been collected annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency since 1994/95, and cover home and overseas students obtaining masters qualifications at English higher education institutions. There is a pronounced drop in the number of students in the 'combined' category for 2003/04—this is due to a change in the way the Open University returns its data to HESA.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Pupil Funding

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the F40 group pupil entitlement model of funding; and if she will make a statement. [4831]

Jacqui Smith: The F40 group model provides a framework for local authorities to inform their decisions on the distribution of funding between their schools, as do other pupil entitlement or needs led models. I met representatives of the F40 group on Thursday 16 June to discuss their model.

Pupil Numbers (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children attended schools in Gloucestershire local education authority area in 2004–05, broken down by local authority area; and what the projected figures are for 2005–06. [5194]

Jacqui Smith: The available information is given in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Actual and projected numbers of pupils (headcount) 2004/05 and 2005/06 Gloucestershire Local Education Authority area

	Number (headcount) of pupils			
	2004/05 (Provisional)[2]		2005/06 (Projected)[3]	
	Primary level[4]	Secondary level[5]	Primary level[4]	Secondary level[5]
Cheltenham	6,350	5,960	n/a	n/a
Cotswold	5,240	5,770	n/a	n/a
Forest of Dean	5,670	5,550	n/a	n/a
Gloucester	8,330	8,750	n/a	n/a
Stroud	7,900	7,330	n/a	n/a
Tewkesbury	4,990	7,290	n/a	n/a
Gloucestershire LEA	38,480	40,650	44,320	41,210

n/a = not available
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Source—Annual Schools Census. Figures are as at January 2005 and are provisional.
[3] Source—Surplus Places Survey 2004. Figures are not available at Local Authority level.
[4] Pupils aged four to 10 as at 31 August 2004.
[5] Pupils aged 11 and over as at 31 August 2004.
Note:
Pupils numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Pupil Spending

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average spending per *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary pupil in each local education authority in England is in 2005–06. [5400]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is given in the table as follows:

	Pupils aged 3–10	Pupils aged 11–15
England: per pupil (£)	*3,840*	*4,700*
Barking and Dagenham	4,320	5,290
Barnet	4,240	5,150
Barnsley	3,750	4,680
Bath and North East Somerset	—	—
Bedfordshire	3,440	4,210
Bexley	3,640	4,530
Birmingham	3,760	4,640
Blackburn with Darwen	4,200	5,260
Blackpool	4,170	5,070
Bolton	3,740	4,740
Bournemouth	3,800	4,560
Bracknell Forest	3,470	4,280
Bradford	3,690	4,770
Brent	4,020	4,970
Brighton and Hove	4,830	6,050
Bristol, City of	3,840	4,760
Bromley	3,870	5,050
Buckinghamshire	3,780	4,710
Bury	3,680	4,530
Calderdale	3,600	4,420
Cambridgeshire	3,740	4,580
Camden	3,610	4,370
Cheshire	5,710	6,820
Cornwall	3,480	4,260
Coventry	3,650	4,370
Croydon	3,900	4,760
Cumbria	4,080	5,220
Darlington	3,690	4,440
Derby	3,720	4,550
Derbyshire	3,770	4,630
Devon	3,520	4,280
Doncaster	3,580	4,310
Dorset	3,830	4,730
Dudley	3,450	4,240
Durham	3,560	4,440
Ealing	3,770	4,630
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,670	5,840
East Sussex	3,510	4,220
Enfield	3,750	4,630
Essex	4,280	5,190
Gateshead	3,690	4,550
Gloucestershire	3,830	4,820
Greenwich	3,500	4,280
Hackney	5,200	6,460
Halton	5,900	7,670
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,030	5,050
Hampshire	5,550	6,780
Haringey	3,520	4,340
	4,980	6,290

	Pupils aged 3–10	Pupils aged 11–15
Harrow	4,220	5,140
Hartlepool	3,920	4,880
Havering	3,730	4,710
Herefordshire	3,780	4,500
Hertfordshire	3,610	4,460
Hillingdon	4,120	5,060
Hounslow	4,550	5,470
Isle of Wight	3,780	4,690
Islington	5,700	7,210
Kensington and Chelsea	5,700	7,200
Kent	3,680	4,580
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	3,970	4,940
Kingston upon Thames	3,890	4,790
Kirklees	3,820	4,690
Knowsley	4,220	5,320
Lambeth	5,700	7,600
Lancashire	3,640	4,450
Leeds	3,710	4,630
Leicester	4,150	4,950
Leicestershire	3,330	4,060
Lewisham	5,340	6,950
Lincolnshire	3,640	4,440
Liverpool	4,150	5,190
Luton	4,120	5,140
Manchester	4,400	5,560
Medway	3,580	4,460
Merton	4,220	5,210
Middlesbrough	4,230	5,710
Milton Keynes	3,860	4,750
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,010	4,970
Newham	4,960	5,980
Norfolk	3,690	4,420
North East Lincolnshire	3,760	4,670
North Lincolnshire	3,720	4,550
North Somerset	3,520	4,340
North Tyneside	3,630	4,630
North Yorkshire	3,610	4,250
Northamptonshire	3,570	4,390
Northumberland	3,650	4,530
Nottingham	4,240	5,450
Nottinghamshire	3,480	4,240
Oldham	3,970	4,820
Oxfordshire	3,690	4,500
Peterborough	3,910	4,820
Plymouth	3,580	4,470
Poole	3,340	4,210
Portsmouth	3,800	4,780
Reading	4,080	5,290
Redbridge	4,030	4,810
Redcar and Cleveland	3,850	4,730
Richmond upon Thames	3,820	4,780
Rochdale	4,010	4,990
Rotherham	3,760	4,610
Rutland	3,660	4,390
Salford	3,990	5,010
Sandwell	3,980	4,920
Sefton	3,690	4,630
Sheffield	3,770	4,720
Shropshire	3,640	4,370
Slough	4,410	5,510
Solihull	3,480	4,270
Somerset	3,530	4,370
South Gloucestershire	3,380	4,220
South Tyneside	3,960	4,830
Southampton	3,930	4,860
Southend-on-Sea	3,770	4,720
Southwark	5,480	7,210
St. Helens	3,760	4,730
Staffordshire	3,400	4,180
Stockport	3,460	4,280
Stockton-on-Tees	3,780	4,710
Stoke-on-Trent	3,890	4,900
Suffolk	3,480	4,280
Sunderland	3,820	4,750
Surrey	3,660	4,520
Sutton	3,850	4,710
Swindon	3,560	4,410
Tameside	3,680	4,560
Telford and Wrekin	3,700	4,560
Thurrock	3,900	4,950
Torbay	3,530	4,400
Tower Hamlets	6,130	7,360
Trafford	3,530	4,350
Wakefield	3,670	4,470
Walsall	3,800	4,620
Waltham Forest	4,540	5,680
Wandsworth	5,050	6,360
Warrington	3,390	4,200
Warwickshire	3,520	4,310
West Berkshire	3,770	4,560
West Sussex	3,590	4,380
Westminster	5,450	6,460
Wigan	3,600	4,430
Wiltshire	3,590	4,290
Windsor and Maidenhead	3,770	4,690
Wirral	3,760	4,730
Wokingham	3,610	4,490
Wolverhampton	3,970	5,020
Worcestershire	3,400	4,240
York	3,400	4,270

Notes:

1. Total spending on schools by LEAs is not yet available. The figures provided show the funding allocated to each LEA by the Government for pupils aged 3–10 and 11–15.
2. Total funding includes funding via the relevant sub-blocks of the Education Formula Spending settlement / Standard Spending Assessment and revenue grants allocated at an LEA level. It includes the pensions transfer to EPS and the Learning and Skills Council, and is in cash terms.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3–10 and 11–15, and exclude EMAs and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those LEAs in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004–05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004–05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006–07 and 2007–08 or 2008–09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3-year-old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Total allocation figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
6. 2005–06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/validated.

School Admissions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list decisions by the schools adjudicator in respect of published admission numbers where the recommendation of the local education authority has been rejected in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* local education authority and *(b)* reasons for the decision. [5607]

Jacqui Smith: Adjudicators are independent of the Department for Education and Skills. Details of the decisions they have made are published each year by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator in their Annual Report. Copies, for each year since the office was created in April 1999, have been placed in the House Library. All adjudicator decisions can be read in full on the school adjudicator website at www.schools adjudicator.gov.uk

School Building

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what capital funding is available to

schools for 2006–07; and how much of that funding is accounted for by *(a)* devolved capital expenditure, *(b)* Building Schools for the Future funding and *(c)* specific capital programmes. [4863]

Jacqui Smith: The capital funding currently budgeted for schools for 2006–07 is tabled as follows:

	£ million
Devolved formula capital	1,000
Buildings Schools for the Future	2,177
Specific Capital Programmes:	
Specialist Schools	35
Voluntary aided schools	444
Sustainable transport	20
Modernisation	602
Basic need	400
School access initiative	84
Targeted capital fund	300
LSC 16 to 19 joint budget contribution	70
Other ICT	249
Academies	365
Other	9
Total	5,755

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance her Department has produced for building special schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [4911]

Jacqui Smith: We have issued guidance on how to include special schools in the educational vision for an area receiving Building Schools for the Future.

We are also consulting on building and design guidance for special schools, which will apply to Building Schools for the Future and other programmes. This is an update of non-statutory design guidance in the new draft Building Bulletin 77: Designing for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, which was issued on the website for public consultation between 1 April 2005–24 June 2005.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the cost of building *(a)* a special school and *(b)* a mainstream school under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [5419]

Jacqui Smith: The cost of a school will depend on the number of pupils and their needs which will vary locally in each case. As an example, under Building Schools for the future programme, an estimated cost for an average 900 place mainstream secondary school without a sixth form may be approximately £15 million gross cost and an estimated cost for an average 72 place special school for pupils with severe complex needs may be £7.5 million gross cost. These cost estimates are current and are based on DfES cost data averaged across a range of schools. They include for furniture, fittings ICT and equipment, professional fees, an average location factor and an allowance for abnormal costs e.g for site works. The costs for the mainstream secondary school are based on the agreed basic net cost rates per square metre of £1,224/m^2. The cost rate used for the special school for pupils with severe and complex needs is the proposed rate of £1,554/m^2 and is subject to the public consultation of the draft improved building standards in Building Bulletin 77. These proposed standards and their costs will apply equally to BSF and other school projects. It must be emphasised that costs will vary greatly across the country and will increase substantially in certain locations.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of the sum allocated for school repairs in the last Budget has been spent. [5397]

Jacqui Smith: An additional £650 million was promised in the last Budget in respect of capital work on primary schools, to be allocated in the financial years 2008–09 and 2009–10. This is in support of the Government's aim that half of the primary stock will be rebuilt or refurbished over a 15 year period. Details will be announced in late 2005.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much public funding has been spent on repairs to school buildings in Gloucestershire in each year since 1997. [5193]

Jacqui Smith: Revenue expenditure figures on the maintenance and improvement of schools are likely to vary from year to year depending on the unique circumstances of a particular LEA. For example, revenue expenditure will increase in years where there have been adverse weather conditions (e.g. repairing storm damage) and is also likely to vary with the number and age of the school buildings within the LEA. Revenue expenditure will also be affected by the amounts of capital expenditure employed at a school. Capital spending in Gloucestershire LEA on school buildings has increased from £7.95 million in 1997–98 to £36.78 million in 2004–05.

The information concerning public funding spent on repairing schools in Gloucestershire is contained within the following table:

Maintenance and improvement of school buildings and grounds in Gloucestershire LEA since 1997

	£[1]
1997–98[2,3]	3,712,000
1998–99[2,3]	4,307,000
1999–2000[2,3]	10,756,000
2000–01[2,3]	9,490,000
2001–02[2,3]	9,307,000
2002–03[2,3]	5,259,000
2003–04[2,3]	5,446,000

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

[2] Figures for 1997–98 to 2001–02 cover the repair and maintenance of buildings, fixed plant and grounds which includes all expenditure on non-capital building works, including repairs and maintenance of buildings, and non-capital expenditure on fixed plant and grounds. Figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 are the combination of the revenue expenditure on building (including fixed plant) maintenance and improvement and grounds maintenance and improvement (CFR categories E12 + E13). Any capital expenditure on school buildings is not included in this table.

[3] Figures for 2002–03 onwards will not be directly comparable with the figures for earlier years as figures for 1997–98 to 2001–02 are for all LEA maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools (pre-primary expenditure accounts for £8,500, £15,000 and £138,000 of the respective totals in 1999–2000, 2000–01 and 2001–02) while nursery figures for 2002–03 and

2003–04 are not available and have therefore been excluded for these two years. Also, for some LEAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LEA part of the form in 2002–03 and 2003–04 and would therefore be excluded from the totals for those years although the precise amount of this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

Notes:

1. The blank rows denote the change of source from LEAs' education Revenue Outturn Statements submitted to ODPM to Section 52 Outturn Statements in 1999–2000, and to the review of the Section 52 categories in 2002–03 following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools.
2. The Department is due to collect the figures for 2004–05 in October 2005.

School Expansion

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she is taking to allow successful schools to expand their present capacity. [5402]

Jacqui Smith: We strongly support the expansion of successful and popular schools where they believe they can sustain their quality. We have therefore provided that all schools may publish their own proposals to expand, and introduced a presumption that proposals by successful and popular schools should be approved so that as many parents as possible are able to gain a place for their child at the school of their choice. In addition, successful and popular secondary schools may apply direct to the Department for a contribution to the capital cost of any necessary building work. If the balance of funding is not available from other sources, the Department may fund the full cost, which may be recouped from the local authority.

We have also consulted on proposals to speed up the expansion process for secondary schools, and give them a right of appeal to the Schools Adjudicator if their proposals are rejected by the local School Organisation Committee.

School Meals

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 477W, on school meals, how many schools provide *(a)* vegetables and *(b)* fruit on a majority of school days. [5021]

Jacqui Smith: The Department does not hold this information centrally. However current nutritional guidelines stipulate that, for primary and secondary schools, a piece of fruit and a vegetable must be available on the menu every day.

The Department of Health is funding the school fruit and vegetable scheme, part of the 5 A DAY programme, to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. Under the scheme, all four to six-year-old children in LEA maintained infant, primary and special schools will be entitled to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment her Department has made of the impact of existing catering contracts on plans to improve school meals services. [5608]

Jacqui Smith: We will expect all schools to meet the new standards for school meals—whether they have LEA catering provision, in-house catering or contract directly with a private provider. That is why we are working closely with all stakeholders, including industry, to develop and implement the transformation.

Officials are examining the implications of a change to the law for existing contracts, for when the proposed tougher minimum nutritional standards become mandatory in September 2006. We envisage that the majority will not present a problem, but are working to understand the scale and nature of any potential difficulties.

School Places (Berkshire)

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many vacant *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school places there are in each local education authority in Berkshire. [5458]

Jacqui Smith: The latest published figures on the number of empty primary and secondary places in each local authority in Berkshire are set out in the following table.

Local authority	*Primary*	*Secondary*
Bracknell Forest	972	895
Reading	1,751	854
Slough	1,564	309
West Berkshire	1,328	330
Windsor and Maidenhead	670	524
Wokingham	1,304	316
Total	7,589	3,228

Source:
Surplus Places Survey 2003

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary school exclusions there have been in each local education authority in Berkshire in each year since 1997. [5459]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is given in the table. Figures for 2003/04 will be available from 23 June 2005.

Maintained secondary schools1: Number and percentage of permanently excluded pupils 1997/98 to 2002/03

		1997/98		*1998/99*		*1999/2000*	
		Number	*Percentage*[2]	*Number*	*Percentage*[2]	*Number*	*Percentage*[2]
867	Bracknell Forest	32	0.52	36	0.99	26	0.43
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	34	0.35	21	0.21	22	0.22
869	West Berkshire	28	0.26	18	0.16	14	0.12
870	Reading	44	0.74	44	0.71	24	0.38
871	Slough	32	0.44	14	0.19	9	0.12
872	Wokingham	18	0.17	31	0.30	11	0.10

		Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
867	Bracknell Forest	23	0.38	23	038	18	0.30
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	30	0.29	17	0.17	17	0.16
869	West Berkshire	19	0.16	21	0.18	22	0.18
870	Reading	21	0.33	12	019	7	0.11
871	Slough	24	0.30	5	0.06	6	0.07
872	Wokingham	15	0.14	11	010	20	0.18

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils in maintained secondary schools.
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Schools (Special Measures)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students were entitled to free school meals in each of the schools placed in special measures in the last 10 years. [3223]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Secondary Pupils (Educational Achievement)

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the study conducted by Professor David Jesson of York university into the secondary school educational achievements of children who achieved the highest marks in Key Stage 2 tests in 1999. [5838]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 474W-75W to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison).

Sex Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what sex education information her Department has distributed to secondary school pupils; and if she will make a statement. [4798]

Jacqui Smith: The Department is not responsible for distributing information on sex education to secondary school pupils. Head teachers and governors decide on the content and materials used in sex and relationship education (SRE) in consultation with parents and with support from Government websites such as the PSHE Teachernet site. Individual schools' SRE policies should have regard to the Department's SRE guidance issued to all schools in July 2000.

SRE in secondary schools should inform young people about contraception and safer sex, and enable them to develop skills to avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex. It should also cover information and knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will seek legislative changes to remove the presumption in favour of inclusion for children with special educational needs; and if she will make a statement. [4727]

Maria Eagle: Removing Barriers to Achievement, our special educational needs strategy, already provides a clear national vision for improving support and outcomes for all children with special educational needs. It sets out the way in which policy and practice in SEN will need to develop in the coming years, and sets out an ambitious programme of sustained action and review. The aim of the strategy is to build the capacity of schools, both special and mainstream, early education settings and local education authorities, from a solid base nationally, to take forward change to meet diverse pupil needs and to increase parents' confidence in SEN provision. We believe that this is best achieved without further legislation, particularly as there have been significant changes to the statutory framework within the last four years.

Synthetic Phonics

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answers of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 229W, regarding the independent review of the role of synthetic phonics, when she will announce the names of the people who will work alongside Mr. Jim Rose in conducting the review. [5025]

Jacqui Smith: We are currently discussing with Jim Rose the support he will need. We will announce the names of his advisers as soon as possible.

Teacher Recruitment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was paid to agencies for teacher recruitment by each local education authority in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was spent by *(a)* each such authority and *(b)* schools in each such authority on teacher recruitment in that year. [5799]

Jacqui Smith: The information is not collected centrally.

Teenage Pregnancies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to tackle teenage pregnancies. [5395]

Beverley Hughes: The Government's 10-year Teenage Pregnancy Strategy continues to make progress in meeting its target of a 50 per cent. reduction in under-18s conception rates by 2010. There has been a 9.8 per cent. decline in under 18 conceptions between 2003 (latest year for which we have figures available) and 1998, the baseline year for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and a 9.9 per cent. reduction in under 16 conceptions between 1998 and 2003. Four out of five

local authorities show an overall decline in their rates and eight out of nine regions have reductions ranging from 8–16 per cent.

This comprehensive strategy covers four key themes which includes joined up action, national campaign, prevention and support. Delivery of the strategy continues to be a priority for the Government. It is clear that an accelerated rate of reduction is needed to meet the target by 2010. We have asked all local partnerships to intensify their efforts to strengthen the delivery of the strategy to areas with the highest under-18 conception rates. 50 per cent. of under 18 conceptions are in 20 per cent. of wards with the highest rate. The vast majority of local authority areas have at least one high rate ward. Effective, comprehensive targeting of local strategies in these 'hot spot' areas is now vital, together with dissemination of best practice for those local authorities whose reduction chance is well above the national average.

Trinity Roman Catholic Primary School

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects building for the new Trinity Roman Catholic Primary school in Liverpool, Riverside to begin. [6145]

Jacqui Smith: I am pleased to report that we are writing to the school to confirm that we have now agreed the level of funding and the design of the new school buildings. This confirmation will mean that the work can proceed as soon as possible.

Truancy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are being taken to reduce truancy in schools. [5907]

Jacqui Smith: We are concerned about all forms of absence from school, but truancy is of particular concern. We continue to work with parents, pupils, schools and local authorities to improve school attendance and to tackle truancy.

We have put in place a range of measures such as extra support for schools and local authorities from expert advisers and through additional resources. We promote effective practices to improve school attendance including national truancy sweeps, first day contact with the parents of absent pupils and electronic registration systems. We have also introduced the 'Fast-track Framework' a system to ensure early identification of attendance problems and a time-limited approach to solving them.

We believe it is vital that parents play their part by ensuring that their child attends school regularly and the vast majority do so. Where parents are in need of support to fulfil their responsibilities, parenting contracts can provide them with the professional support they need and help them focus on what needs to be done to improve their child's attendance. However, where parents are not unable, but simply unwilling, to fulfil their responsibilities, they face strong measures such as penalty notices, prosecutions and compulsory Parenting Orders.

By September 2007, we expect all secondary schools to be working together in collaborations, with funds devolved from their local authorities, to manage support and provision for persistent truants as well as pupils who are excluded or at risk of exclusion.

Voice Training

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received on providing *(a)* new and *(b)* existing teachers with voice training. [5628]

Jacqui Smith: My right hon. Friend has received no such representations.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of voice training on the ability of teachers to control classes. [5629]

Jacqui Smith: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated research into this subject.

Youth Services Green Paper

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the Green Paper on youth services will be published. [5954]

Beverley Hughes: We intend to publish the Youth Green Paper shortly.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons the Green Paper on youth services and young people has not yet been published. [6031]

Beverley Hughes: We are working on new proposals for young people covering five main areas: places to go and things to do, design and delivery of services, information, advice and guidance, support for teenagers at risk and clarification of local roles, responsibilities and funding. We intend to publish the youth Green Paper shortly.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 22 June 2005

WALES

NHS Waiting Lists

10. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the National Assembly for Wales about NHS waiting lists in Wales. [5069]

Mr. Hain: I regularly meet the Assembly First Minister and the health service in Wales is one of the topics that we frequently discuss.

Older People

11. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps the Government plans to take to improve the quality of life of older people in Wales. [5070]

Nick Ainger: The Government is taking a number of steps to improve the quality of life of older people in Wales.

I am proud that this month the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill was introduced into the other place, and received its Second Reading on 14 June.

Child Care

12. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the National Assembly for Wales Government on the effects of tax credits on the take-up of childcare in Wales. [5071]

Nick Ainger: I regularly meet with Ministers from the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss a range of issues, including the effects of tax credits on the take-up of childcare in Wales.

Hospitals

13. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he has met the National Assembly for Wales Minister for Health to discuss the provision of new hospitals in Wales. [5072]

Mr. Hain: I have regular meetings with the Assembly First Minister and we regularly discuss health matters.

Over the last year, 12 new major hospital development schemes have begun in Wales. These include the building of a number of new hospitals and the renovation and modernisation of a significant proportion of existing hospitals.

Digital Signals

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on measures to improve digital signals in the South Wales valley communities. [4039]

Mr. Hain: Current levels of digital terrestrial coverage are not indicative of the situation post-switchover. Coverage is, at present, limited to only nine of the 200 transmitters in Wales to prevent interference being caused to viewers of analogue television services. At the time of switchover, these restrictions can be removed and the power and coverage of digital services will increase to match that currently achieved by analogue. Planning for switchover is making provision for all of the existing transmitters to broadcast digital services.

We are committed to achieving digital switchover between 2008 and 2012 ensuring universal access to high quality digital television through a mix of terrestrial, cable and satellite services. This will happen region by region, and we will make sure that the interests of elderly people and other vulnerable groups are protected.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4114]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office was established July 1999, and during this time there have been no losses or thefts of laptops. The Wales Office is currently issued with two laptops, one allocated to the Minister and an official. The laptops are provided to the Wales Office under the DCA PFI Contract since April 2004 at an annual cost of £4,055.

Railways

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Network Rail on the inclusion of Newport as a through destination on the planned Cardiff to Ebbw Vale passenger railway. [4035]

Mr. Hain: The Ebbw Vale railway project is being delivered in two phases. Phase 1 comprises an hourly service from Ebbw Vale to Cardiff starting in 2007; phase 2 will be an hourly service from Ebbw Vale to Newport.

I understand that the Newport service cannot begin before 2009 because of the need for major re-signalling works in the Newport area by Network Rail.

Peter Law: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has made to the Strategic Rail Authority on improving the main line passenger service from London to South Wales. [4037]

Mr. Hain: The Strategic Rail Authority has recently invited detailed bids for the Greater Western Franchise. One of the authority's objectives is to improve operational performance and sustain a level of service quality consistent with meeting customer needs. The

authority has also launched a public consultation on the specification for the franchise. Where appropriate, revised instructions can be given to bidders in the light of consultees' responses.

Smoking

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on legislation relating to smoking and its impact in Wales. [5068]

Nick Ainger: My right hon. Friend has had regular discussions over the last few months with the Secretary of State for Health on this matter.

Earlier this week the Government published consultation on proposals for introducing smoke free environments in England and Wales.

South Wales Valleys

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the regenerative potential for towns in the South Wales valleys of a scheme similar to the Market Towns Initiative. [5059]

Mr. Hain: Regenerating the South Wales valleys is a major priority for this Government. We secured Objective 1 funding for West Wales and the valleys, and this successful programme is having a huge impact on towns and communities across the valleys. In the South Wales valleys, £154.9 million of Objective 1 grant has been committed to 313 local projects, representing more than £308 million of total project investment.

As part of its sustainable communities agenda, the Assembly also runs the Communities First programme, which is a comprehensive approach to area-based regeneration. The programme applies to many of the most deprived areas in the South Wales valleys. It was launched on 31 March 2000 and has a budget of £150 million until 2006.

CADW also operate the Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme, which is a Heritage Lottery Fund run scheme aimed to promote urban regeneration but biased towards heritage conservation by improving town centres, through the restoration of historic architecture.

There are currently 14 Townscape Heritage Initiatives ongoing around Wales, with a further two proposed in South Wales valleys areas (Maesteg in Bridgend and Rhymney in Caerphilly).

In addition, the Assembly operate a range of measures to assist rural towns, for example the £1.8 million a year Rural Community Action programme which covers nine local authority areas and is benefiting rural towns in places such as Flintshire, Wrexham and the Vale of Glamorgan. Over 100 projects are also being supported under a £8.7 million programme in rural areas to support basic services, renovation of villages and supporting local tourism and craft sectors. A Rural Retail Scheme is also in operation designed to help encourage the retention of retail facilities in rural areas.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Construction (Litchfield)

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will meet the directors of Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited to discuss the route that the restored canal will take with respect to Planning Policy Guidance 13, and its progress to date. [4176]

Yvette Cooper: This is a local issue for Staffordshire county council, Lichfield district council and the Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust. Outline Planning Permission for the development including the Lichfield Southern Bypass has already been granted by Lichfield district council and a legal agreement entered into with the developers. It is therefore inappropriate for my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and other Ministers to enter into discussion about these matters.

Crematoria

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance the Government issues to local authorities relating to *(a)* crematoria and *(b)* the display of religious symbols in crematoria. [5577]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply

Regulations relating to the cremation of bodies are made under the Cremation Act 1902. Guidance on these regulations is issued from time to time as the need arises. No guidance has been issued on the display of religious symbols in crematoria and there are no plans to do so.

Environmental Services (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent by each London borough per 1,000 population on environmental services in the last year for which figures are available. [2467]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Table 1 lists the net current expenditure for environmental services as reported to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in Revenue Outturn (RO) returns for 2003–04-RO5 data (line 290).

Table 1: Net current expenditure on environmental services in 2003–04 for each London borough

	Total environmental services (£000)
Barking and Dagenham	8,295
Barnet	15,332
Bexley	17,239
Brent	17,791
Bromley	21,085
Camden	19,293
City of London	15,862
Croydon	24,146
Ealing	17,319
Enfield	16,612
Greater London Authority	611
Greenwich	17,814
Hackney	24,206
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,322
Haringey	13,077
Harrow	12,264
Havering	6,759
Hillingdon	9,564
Hounslow	10,111
Islington	16,312

Table 1: Net current expenditure on environmental services in 2003–04 for each London borough

	Total environmental services (£000)
Kensington and Chelsea	13,637
Kingston upon Thames	9,077
Lambeth	15,816
Lewisham	20,591
Merton	12,739
Newham	22,403
Redbridge	11,006
Richmond upon Thames	8,113
Southwark	23,761
Sutton	14,417
Tower Hamlets	20,961
Waltham Forest	14,299
Wandsworth	15,549
Westminster	38,999

House Demolition

Mr. Walker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many houses in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* Merseyside are scheduled to be demolished in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009; and if he will make a statement. [3220]

Yvette Cooper: Demolition is a matter for individual local authorities in the light of local circumstances.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated typical *(a)* number of rooms and *(b)* floor space is for a property provided by his Department's £60,000 home scheme. [5423]

Yvette Cooper: The £60,000 target specified in the Design for Manufacture competition relates to the construction of a two bedroom home with a minimum gross internal floor area of 76.5m^2.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the properties provided by the £60,000 home scheme will be sold as *(a)* leasehold, *(b)* commonhold and *(c)* freehold properties. [5587]

Yvette Cooper: It is expected that a range of homes with a variety of tenures will be built under the Design for Manufacture competition, and that about 30 per cent. of all of the homes will be made available under the terms of the First Time Buyers initiative. The precise mix of housing types and tenures on each site will depend on local circumstances.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will publish the consultation document on a revised means of determining overcrowding. [4363]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is considering the future of the statutory overcrowding standards and plans to publish a consultation paper in the near future.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the 15 local councils and 100 wards with the highest proportion of overcrowded housing, indicating in each case *(a)* the proportion living in each category of property and *(b)* the proportion of all households living in overcrowded accommodation. [4364]

Yvette Cooper: The 15 local councils with the highest proportion of accommodation which fails the bedroom standard and the wards within these councils are listed in a table to be placed in the Library of the House. Against each council and each ward is the estimated proportion of households within that council/ward that are affected.

The 100 wards with the highest levels of overcrowding across the country have not been determined.

A breakdown of the proportion of overcrowded households by property type is not available.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his Department's policy is regarding whether living rooms should be used as sleeping accommodation for permanent members of a household; and if he will make a statement. [4365]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister recognises that the statutory overcrowding standards in Part 10 of the Housing Act 1985 can be construed as permitting the use of living rooms as sleeping accommodation, although most local authorities apply higher standards. The Part 10 standards are widely recognised as out of line with modern expectations, and we intend to publish a consultation paper on the future of these standards in the near future.

Local Tax Take

John Hemming: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the target increase in local tax take from Government was in each year since the creation of the council tax; and what the actual increase in local tax take as implemented by local authorities was. [4952]

Mr. Woolas: The Government do not set a target increase in the amount which local authorities can raise from council tax, which is dependent on councils' spending decisions.

Tabled are figures for the amounts of council tax received by local authorities in each financial year for which figures are available since the introduction of the council tax on 1 April 1993.

The table also expresses these amounts as cash and percentage increases over the corresponding figures for the previous year.

	Council tax received during the year[1] *(£ million)*	*Increase over previous year*	
		£ million	*Percentage*
1993–94	6,807	—	—
1994–95	7,546	739	10.9
1995–96	8,151	605	8.0
1996–97	8,799	648	7.9
1997–98	9,570	771	8.8
1998–99	10,579	1,009	10.5
1999–2000	11,457	878	8.3
2000–01	12,242	785	6.9
2001–02	13,208	966	7.9
2002–03	14,510	1,302	9.9
2003–04	16,392	1,882	13.0

[1] Regardless of the financial year to which the amounts relate; excludes amounts paid through council tax benefit.

Source:
QRC4 returns to ODPM

New Build Homebuy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated sale price will be of a typical property provided by New Build Homebuy. [5581]

Yvette Cooper: Proposals for New Build Homebuy are set out in our consultation paper—"Homebuy—expanding the opportunity to own" (April 2005). The consultation period closes on 24 June.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have made no estimates of the sale price of a New Build Homebuy properties. This will vary depending on a number of factors including the prevailing market prices in the relevant location and the proportion being purchased.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000

Keith Vaz: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many and what percentage of staff in his Office have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3527]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To date, 107 people (5.1 per cent. of ODPM staff) have had training on the specific duties relating to the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. In addition, induction training ensures that all new staff are made aware of the Office's responsibilities under the Act. Although the Office is able to produce staff breakdowns by grade and ethnicity, this data is currently unavailable in respect of specific training courses.

The Office's Race Equality Scheme, which sets out how it will meet its general and specific duties under the Act over the period 2005 to 2008, was published in draft on 31 May 2005, and is currently out to consultation.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the running costs of the South East of England Regional Assembly have been in each of the last five years. [5389]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) and the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 17 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 368W.

Regional Fire Control Centres

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the sites short listed for the proposed regional fire control centres. [4935]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 410–11W, to the hon. Member for North Thanet (Mr. Gale).

Right to Buy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government have to increase Right to Buy discount ceilings in line with house price inflation. [4275]

Yvette Cooper: There are no current plans to increase the discounts available under the Right to Buy scheme to tenants who wish to purchase 100 per cent. of the home they live in. However, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is consulting on a number of options for tenants who wish to purchase a share of their homes under Social Homebuy.

Torquay Crematorium Chapel

Mr. Steen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance Torbay Unitary Authority sought from his Office in relation to *(a)* changing the name of Torquay Crematorium Chapel and *(b)* decreasing the size of the cross inside the ceremonial hall. [5962]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

Torbay Unitary Authority has not sought any advice from my Department in relation to changing the name of Torquay Crematorium Chapel and decreasing the size of the cross inside the ceremonial hall.

TRANSPORT

A303 (Stonehenge)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated total cost is of the tunnelled section of the A303 in Wiltshire near Stonehenge. [111]

Dr. Ladyman: The approved budget for the A303 Stonehenge Improvement is £223 million, which includes an estimated £100 million for the costs of the bored tunnel section. These figures are currently being reviewed by Highways Agency following further site investigations, and some further increase in costs is now anticipated. Details of the revised cost will be announced alongside our decision on the Inspector's Report following the public inquiry into the Stonehenge Improvement scheme.

Air Safety

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* collisions and *(b)* near-misses of aircraft above London there were in each of the last five years. [5312]

Ms Buck: An airprox is a situation in which, in the opinion of a pilot or a controller, the distance between aircraft as well as their relative positions and speed have been such that the safety of the aircraft involved was or may have been compromised.

Over the period of 2000 to 2004 there have been 23 airprox in controlled airspace over London. These can be broken down on an annual basis as follows:

	Number
2000	4
2001	2
2002	4
2003	6
2004	7

These are statistically insignificant numbers which should not be used to derive any trends, especially considering the volumes of air traffic which have increased over the period. The UK Airprox Board assessed that there was no risk of a collision in any of the subject airprox. There have been no mid-air collisions.

Concessionary Fares

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the distribution formula is for the half fare concession to the over 60s; and how much has been paid by the Government to each local authority or transport authority in each of the last five years. [6316]

Ms Buck: There is currently no specific distribution formula for concessionary fares; they are one of a wide-range of services covered in the district-level Environmental Protection and Cultural Services Block of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) system. It is therefore not possible to work out how much grant an authority has received with respect to concessionary fares.

Crossrail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of whether capacity offered by Crossrail on the Shenfield branch will meet the change in demand expected as a result of plans for homebuilding in the South East. [5429]

Derek Twigg: It is estimated that Crossrail will provide a 40 per cent. increase in capacity of the local services between Shenfield and Liverpool Street with the service pattern currently proposed. That additional capacity will help to meet increases in demand for transport along the branch. In addition, by releasing platform capacity at Liverpool Street, Crossrail would improve the potential for expansion of services from the Lea Valley.

Disability Discrimination Act

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to the aviation industry on the application to it of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; and if he will make a statement. [5288]

Ms Buck: In common with other transport infrastructure such as stations and ports, airports are covered by Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) which covers access to goods, facilities and services. The Disability Rights Commission has produced a code of practice for service providers on meeting the Part 3 duties.

There is currently an exemption in Part 3 for

"any service insofar as it consists of the use of any means of transport"

which means that the element of the service involving air travel is not covered. We have, however, amended that exemption under Section 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to make clear that it applies only to services involving the provision and use of a vehicle (including an aircraft) and to allow for it to be lifted to different extents, for different services at different times.

We have said that we would use the new power in respect of air services if the voluntary code of practice which we issued in March 2003 proves to be ineffective. That code, "Access to Air Travel for Disabled People—Code of Practice", was developed in close co-operation with the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (the Government's statutory advisers on transport and mobility for disabled people) and industry representatives. It draws on internationally agreed best practice from the European Civil Aviation Conference and the International Civil Aviation Organisation and includes specific advice on all aspects of air travel, from accessing information through to on board services and disembarkation at the final destination.

Research is currently under way to monitor the sector's compliance with the code's recommendations. The study is due to report around the end of this year and will inform our decision on whether to use the provisions in the 2005 Act to bring air services within the scope of Part 3.

Eurotunnel

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Eurotunnel (i) staff and (ii) creditors and *(b)* other Government Departments in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [R] [6013]

Derek Twigg: Officials at the Department for Transport have periodic discussions with a wide range of industry parties, other stakeholders and counterparts in other Government Departments in relation to the Department's strategic interest in cross-channel rail services. The Department also has regular contact with Eurotunnel management on issues relating to the day-to-day operation of the channel tunnel, through its representation on the Anglo-French Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission.

Free Fare Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who will meet the costs of the Free Fare scheme; what assessment has been made of the likely cost; whether the scheme will include free local bus travel for *(a)* people over 60 years and *(b)* people with disabilities; and when he expects further information on the operation of the scheme to be published. [6242]

Ms Buck: Free off-peak concessionary travel will be introduced in England for those 60 and over and disabled people on their local bus services from April 2006. The Government will provide an extra £350 million in 2006–07 which will be sufficient to fund the cost. Final decisions on the distribution of the extra funding—which will be done through the Revenue Support Grant process—have not been made.

Hampshire Light Rapid Transit Scheme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his timetable is for determining the submission for the Hampshire Light Rapid Transit Scheme. [6008]

Derek Twigg: We will make a decision soon.

London to Brighton Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the implementation of the Route Utilisation Strategy for the London to Brighton main line. [5140]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* A Route Utilisation Strategy for the Brighton main line will be published in due course.

M11 Link Road

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will arrange for electronic signs on roads leading to those joining the M11 Link Road in *(a)* Wanstead, *(b)* Leytonstone and *(c)* Leyton telling motorists when the Link Road is seriously congested; and if he will make a statement. [5958]

Dr. Ladyman: The M11 Link Road is now classified as the A12. The section of the A12 inside London now forms part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN). Therefore, any works, including signing on that road, or roads in the vicinity are a matter for the Mayor and Transport for London (TfL).

Rail Transport (Motorisation)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on trials of alternative forms of motorisation for rail transport. [5218]

Derek Twigg: A number of private companies and individuals are working in this area but I am not aware of any such research being either carried out or funded directly by Government.

Road Safety

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to give local authorities the power to erect 30 mph repeater signs on roads with high traffic accident rates. [5876]

Dr. Ladyman: The provision of repeater signs on only 30 mph roads with high traffic accident rates is likely to create uncertainty for drivers as to whether some roads are 30 mph or not. The absence of 30 mph repeaters on other 30 mph roads, may indicate to drivers that the speed limit is in fact higher, which is likely to increase accident risk.

Under current legislation the presence of street lighting indicates a road is subject to a 30 mph speed limit, unless signs indicate otherwise. This provides a consistent and easily understood approach. It has been law for over 70 years and is contained in the Highway Code, which all drivers study as part of learning to drive.

Sussex Coast Rail Lines

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what percentage of maximum power the power supply on the Sussex Coast rail lines will allow the new rolling stock to operate. [5141]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The power supply on Sussex Coast lines is sufficient for new rolling stock to run at full power where trains are formed of up to six coaches. Longer trains are restricted to less than full power but this is sufficient for them to maintain schedules.

Tyne Tunnel

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the time taken for the *(a)* assessment and *(b)* approval of the Second Tyne Tunnel; and whether changes in the proposal made by the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority have had an impact on the time scale. [6353]

Dr. Ladyman: Following a public inquiry into the proposed new Tyne crossing the Tyne and Wear PTA have, on several occasions since the close of the inquiry, requested substantial changes to the powers they require to implement the scheme. This is unusual, as normally applicants and their legal advisers have established the powers they require before the inquiry opens. It has caused significant cumulative delays to the Department's assessment of the proposals as we have had to consider carefully the consequences of all the requested changes. We also had to give other interested parties the opportunity to comment on the changes, in the interests of natural justice. On the basis of the information we now have available, we hope to announce a decision shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Nuclear Waste

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of *(a)* low level, *(b)* intermediate level and *(c)* high level nuclear waste has become unaccounted for in each of the last five years; and what percentage has been located. [4454]

Mr. Morley: The Department is not aware of any radioactive waste that is unaccounted for. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and United Kingdom Nirex Ltd. undertake regular reviews and updates of the stocks and predicted arisings of radioactive waste in the UK. The last published version of the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory as at 1 April 2001 reported stocks of waste as 1,960m^3 HLW, 75,400m^3 ILW and 14,700m^3 LLW and predicted future arisings of 750m^3 HLW, 163,000m^3 ILW and 1,490,000m^3 LLW. An updated version of this inventory giving the stocks and predicted future arisings at 1 April 2004 is currently being prepared and will be published later this year.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new nuclear waste storage facilities she expects to be built in each of the next 10 years; and where. [5217]

Mr. Morley: It is for the owners of radioactive waste to make suitable arrangements for the management of their waste, including the provision of any stores, subject to securing the necessary regulatory and planning approvals.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list sites in the West Midlands where nuclear waste is stored. [5760]

Mr. Morley: The following sites are identified by the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory as storing quantities of radioactive waste:

Donnington

Stafford.

Sewer Rats (London)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the progress of the review of the London Sewer Rat Joint Working Protocol; and what she expects the outcome to be. [4851]

Mr. Morley: The Local Government Association (LGA) and Water UK published a joint protocol in 1999 which set out arrangements for a closer working relationship between local authorities and water companies in England and Wales on the issue of rat infestation of sewers.

The Department sought the views of all local authority chief executives in England and Wales on the effectiveness of the protocol, but the level of response was disappointing (77 responses were received) and we are unable to draw any clear conclusions from the information provided.

Snaring

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* reports have been received on, *(b)* prosecutions have been brought and *(c)* convictions have been secured for (i) the setting of an illegal snare, (ii) killing through snaring and (iii) taking a protected species through snaring in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [4843]

Jim Knight: There is no specific data available for prosecutions on the illegal use of snares. The only figures available relate to the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Protection of Animals Act 1911, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 S.11, Deer Acts 1991 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, England and Wales 1993 to 2003. This data can be found through the following link: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/commandpubs1.html

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Phthalates

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward legislation to compel manufacturers to reveal which of their products contain phthalates and in what concentrations. [2573]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have no current plans to bring forward such legislation.

Pirate Radio

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people were prosecuted for operating pirate radio stations in each London borough in each of the last five years. [5314]

Alun Michael: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Property Misdescriptions Act

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many successful prosecutions there have been by trading standards officers under the Property Misdescriptions Act 1991 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [5790]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The numbers of successful prosecutions by trading standards officers in each of the last five years under the Property Misdescriptions Act 1991:

	Number
As at January to December:	
2004	18
2003	18
2002	17
2001	26
2000	20

Renewables

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department's latest estimate is of the annual rise of carbon dioxide emissions *(a)* in the United Kingdom and *(b)* globally. [4956]

Mr. Morley: I have been asked to reply.

Greenhouse gas inventory estimates published by the Department in March show that carbon dioxide emissions from the United Kingdom decreased by 3 per cent. between 2001 and 2002. Emissions then rose by 2.2 per cent. between 2002 and 2003, and by a further 1.5 per cent. between 2003 and 2004. The 2003 to 2004 estimate is provisional.

The most recent estimates published by the International Energy Agency show that world emissions of carbon dioxide increased by about 2 per cent. between 2001 and 2002. Energy statistics published in the "BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2005" suggest that world emissions have risen faster since 2002, but the detailed analysis needed to quantify percentage changes is in CO_2 is not yet available.

Travel Industry (Regulation)

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has held with *(a)* the Association of British Travel Agents, *(b)* the Federation of Tour Operators and *(c)* the Association of Independent Tour Operators regarding the regulatory burden in the travel industry. [4589]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Central Ayrshire (Mr. Donohoe) on 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 575–76W.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress was made towards the public service agreement target for apprenticeship starts in 2004/05; and what assessment she has made of whether the target will be met. [6510]

Phil Hope: The Department has a PSA target for at least 28 per cent. of young people to start an Apprenticeship for the first time by age 22 by 2004. Measurement of the target will be based on starts in the 2004/05 academic year. At the end of 2003/04, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) met its milestone of 24.5 per cent. However, since then, starts have fallen behind profile. The LSC have therefore put in place a range of measures to address this shortfall although it is too early to assess their impact. The target outturn will be reported by December 2005.

Bullying (Portsmouth)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what data she has collected on bullying in state schools in Portsmouth. [5295]

Jacqui Smith: Data on bullying are not collected centrally and there is no reliable basis for an estimate of prevalence. Bullying cases appear to be reported more often, now than previously but we have no hard evidence that bullying is increasing or that it is affecting more children. Indeed, as children and young people increasingly feel safe at school to report bullying, and confident that it will be tackled effectively and sensitively, it is likely reporting will rise.

However, any level of bullying is too high and we are determined to help schools tackle the problem. Our guidance pack 'Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence', the anti-bullying charter and the anti-bullying website www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying offer detailed advice on preventing and addressing bullying. We also offer specific advice to schools on tackling homophobic bullying and are developing advice on racist bullying.

City Academies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total amount of capital costs contributed by sponsors was to each city academy; and what proportion of the total capital costs this represents in each case. [4768]

Jacqui Smith: The sponsorship contribution for each of the 17 open Academies is set out in the following table.

Academy	*Sponsorship contribution (£ million)*	*Sponsorship as a proportion of capital costs (%)*
Capital City Academy	3	12.8
City of London (Southwark) Academy	2.1	7.2
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	0	0.0
Greig City Academy	2	15.4
Lambeth Academy	2	8.2
London Academy	1.5	5.2
Manchester Academy	2	10.1
Mossbourne Community Academy	2	7.1
Northampton Academy	2	7.4
Stockley Academy	2	9.5
The Academy at Peckham	2	9.1
The Business Academy Bexley	2.41	7.7
The City Academy, Bristol	2	7.2
The King's Academy	2	9.4
The Walsall City Academy	2.5	13.9
The West London Academy	2	5.4
Unity City Academy	2	9.7

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of pupils in each city academy are resident *(a)* in the ward in which the school is situated, *(b)* in neighbouring wards, *(c)* elsewhere within the local authority area and *(d)* outside that local authority. [4773]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested has been provide in the following table.

Resident location of pupils attending academies—January 2005

Percentage

School name	*Resident in ward*	*Resident in neighbouring wards*[1]	*Resident within LEA*	*Resident outside LEA*	*Total pupils*
Mossbourne Community Academy	15.1	47.7	95.4	4.6	218
Lambeth Academy	28.3	59.2	93.5	6.5	184
City of London Academy (Southwark)	33.5	42.9	92.0	8.0	361
The Academy at Peckham	9.3	56.0	89.2	10.8	1,079
London Academy	17.2	52.0	87.3	12.7	1,199
The Business Academy Bexley	32.8	51.9	72.2	27.8	1,379
Capital City Academy	7.6	39.6	85.4	14.6	911
West London Academy	45.6	24.7	87.2	12.8	1,129
Greig City Academy, Haringey	5.3	14.7	75.0	25.0	712
Stockley Academy	39.7	34.8	98.3	1.7	584
Walsall Academy	29.2	29.2	80.6	19.4	630
Manchester Academy	35.4	29.9	94.5	5.5	726
The City Academy Bristol	30.1	45.3	96.1	3.9	1,096
Unity City Academy	26.6	69.5	98.5	1.5	1,123
The King's Academy	37.1	24.3	96.1	3.9	1,042

Resident location of pupils attending academies—January 2005

Percentage

School name	Resident in ward	Resident in neighbouring wards[1]	Resident within LEA	Resident outside LEA	Total pupils
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	33.5	22.3	95.6	4.4	1,580
Northampton Academy	24.7	68.9	99.8	0.2	1,247

[1] The neighbouring ward is a ward that shares a boundary with the ward where the academy is situated

Source:

PLASC 2005 provisional data

Civil Servants

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what procedures civil servants in her Department follow when deciding on her Department's association with businesses and commercial organisations; and if she will make a statement. [5972]

Maria Eagle: Civil servants in my Department follow the procurement principles set out in Government Accounting and the procurement guidance issued by the Office of Government Commerce which is transposed into departmental policy and guidance. In their professional and personal dealings with commercial organisations my officials adhere to the civil service code in all matters and the Cabinet Office's Guidance to Departments on Sponsorship of Government Activities when dealing with sponsorship issues.

My Department also has its own partnership principles which are used for those associations with commercial organisations where we require a closer relationship.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 336–39W, on grants per pupil, what the figures are for 2005–06. [6354]

Jacqui Smith: The following table gives our most recent figures, for local education authorities in England in 2005–06, for the total funding per primary pupil (aged 3–10) and per secondary pupil (aged 11–15) in cash terms. These funding figures include funding through Education Formula Spending and grants allocated at an LEA level; they include the pensions transfer to EFS.

2005–06: Total funding per pupil aged 3–10 and 11–15—LEAs by Government Office Region

£

LEA number	LEA name	Pupils aged 3–10	Pupils aged 11–15
	England	3,840	4,700
	North East	3,830	4,750
841	Darlington	3,720	4,550
840	Durham	3,770	4,630
390	Gateshead	3,830	4,820
805	Hartlepool	3,920	4,880
806	Middlesbrough	4,230	5,710
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	4,010	4,970
392	North Tyneside	3,630	4,630
929	Northumberland	3,650	4,530
807	Redcar and Cleveland	3,850	4,730
393	South Tyneside	3,960	4,830
808	Stockton-on-Tees	3,780	4,710
394	Sunderland	3,820	4,750
	North West	3,780	4,650
889	Blackburn with Darwen	4,170	5,070
890	Blackpool	3,740	4,740
350	Bolton	3,800	4,560
351	Bury	3,600	4,420
875	Cheshire	3,480	4,260
909	Cumbria	3,690	4,440
876	Halton	4,030	5,050
340	Knowsley	4,220	5,320
888	Lancashire	3,640	4,450
341	Liverpool	4,150	5,190
352	Manchester	4,400	5,560
353	Oldham	3,970	4,820
354	Rochdale	4,010	4,990
355	Salford	3,990	5,010
342	St. Helens	3,760	4,730
343	Sefton	3,690	4,630
356	Stockport	3,460	4,280
357	Tameside	3,680	4,560
358	Trafford	3,530	4,350
877	Warrington	3,390	4,200
359	Wigan	3,600	4,430
344	Wirral	3,760	4,730
	Yorkshire and The Humber	3,750	4,600
370	Barnsley	3,750	4,680
380	Bradford	4,020	4,970
381	Calderdale	3,740	4,580
371	Doncaster	3,830	4,730
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	3,510	4,220
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	3,970	4,940
382	Kirklees	3,820	4,690
383	Leeds	3,710	4,630
812	North East Lincolnshire	3,760	4,670
813	North Lincolnshire	3,720	4,550
815	North Yorkshire	3,610	4,250
372	Rotherham	3,760	4,610
373	Sheffield	3,770	4,720
384	Wakefield	3,670	4,470
816	York	3,400	4,270
	East Midlands	3,620	4,410
831	Derby	3,770	4,630
830	Derbyshire	3,520	4,280
856	Leicester	4,150	4,950
855	Leicestershire	3,330	4,060
925	Lincolnshire	3,640	4,440
928	Northamptonshire	3,570	4,390
892	Nottingham	4,240	5,450
891	Nottinghamshire	3,480	4,240
857	Rutland	3,660	4,390
	West Midlands	3,750	4,620
330	Birmingham	4,200	5,260
331	Coventry	3,900	4,760
332	Dudley	3,560	4,440
884	Herefordshire	3,780	4,500
333	Sandwell	3,980	4,920
893	Shropshire	3,640	4,370
334	Solihull	3,480	4,270
860	Staffordshire	3,400	4,180
861	Stoke-on-Trent	3,890	4,900
894	Telford and Wrekin	3,700	4,560
335	Walsall	3,800	4,620
937	Warwickshire	3,520	4,310
336	Wolverhampton	3,970	5,020
885	Worcestershire	3,400	4,240

2005–06: Total funding per pupil aged 3–10 and 11–15—LEAs by Government Office Region

£

LEA number	LEA name	Pupils aged 3–10	Pupils aged 11–15
	East of England	3,670	4,510
820	Bedfordshire	3,640	4,530
873	Cambridgeshire	3,610	4,370
881	Essex	3,690	4,550
919	Hertfordshire	3,610	4,460
821	Luton	4,120	5,140
926	Norfolk	3,690	4,420
874	Peterborough	3,910	4,820
882	Southend-on-Sea	3,770	4,720
935	Suffolk	3,480	4,280
883	Thurrock	3,900	4,950
	London	4,690	5,720
202	Camden	5,710	6,820
203	Greenwich	5,200	6,460
204	Hackney	5,900	7,670
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	5,550	6,780
206	Islington	5,700	7,210
207	Kensington and Chelsea	5,700	7,200
208	Lambeth	5,700	7,600
209	Lewisham	5,340	6,950
210	Southwark	5,480	7,210
211	Tower Hamlets	6,130	7,360
212	Wandsworth	5,050	6,360
213	Westminster	5,450	6,460
301	Barking and Dagenham	4,320	5,290
302	Barnet	4,240	5,150
303	Bexley	3,760	4,640
304	Brent	4,830	6,050
305	Bromley	3,780	4,710
306	Croydon	4,080	5,220
307	Ealing	4,670	5,840
308	Enfield	4,280	5,190
309	Haringey	4,980	6,290
310	Harrow	4,220	5,140
311	Havering	3,730	4,710
312	Hillingdon	4,120	5,060
313	Hounslow	4,550	5,470
314	Kingston upon Thames	3,890	4,790
315	Merton	4,220	5,210
316	Newham	4,960	5,980
317	Redbridge	4,030	4,810
318	Richmond upon Thames	3,820	4,780
319	Sutton	3,850	4,710
320	Waltham Forest	4,540	5,680
	South East	3,680	4,560
867	Bracknell Forest	3,690	4,770
846	Brighton and Hove	3,840	4,760
825	Buckinghamshire	3,680	4,530
845	East Sussex	3,750	4,630
850	Hampshire	3,520	4,340
921	Isle of Wight	3,780	4,690
886	Kent	3,680	4,580
887	Medway	3,580	4,460
826	Milton Keynes	3,860	4,750
931	Oxfordshire	3,690	4,500
851	Portsmouth	3,800	4,780
870	Reading	4,080	5,290
871	Slough	4,410	5,510
852	Southampton	3,930	4,860
936	Surrey	3,660	4,520
869	West Berkshire	3,770	4,560
938	West Sussex	3,590	4,380
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,770	4,690
872	Wokingham	3,610	4,490
	South West	3,560	4,360
800	Bath and North East Somerset	3,440	4,210
837	Bournemouth	3,470	4,280
801	Bristol, City of	3,870	5,050
908	Cornwall	3,650	4,370
878	Devon	3,580	4,310
835	Dorset	3,450	4,240
916	Gloucestershire	3,500	4,280
802	North Somerset	3,520	4,340
879	Plymouth	3,580	4,470
836	Poole	3,340	4,210
933	Somerset	3,530	4,370
803	South Gloucestershire	3,380	4,220
866	Swindon	3,560	4,410
880	Torbay	3,530	4,400
865	Wiltshire	3,590	4,290

Notes:

1. Price Base: Cash terms.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of the Education Formula Spending settlement and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3–10 and 11–15, and exclude education maintenance allowances and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those LEAs in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004–05, advance grant funding was included in the year of payment (2004–05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006–07 and 2007–08 or 2006–07 to 2008–09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £m figures to per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Status: 2005–06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.

Entry to Employment Programme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what alternative education and training provision has been found for young people who are not yet ready to start an apprenticeship following the changes to the Entry to Employment programme; and what evaluation has been made of *(a)* the appropriateness of such provision and *(b)* its likelihood of offering meaningful progression to disadvantaged young people. [6512]

Jacqui Smith: Entry to Employment (E2E) is the main programme for young people not yet ready for an apprenticeship. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) guarantees all young people for whom E2E is appropriate, a place on the programme. This is in addition to their commitment that every 16–18 year old can have a place in post-16 education and training. Changes introduced in 2004/05 were to improve the referral and learner review processes.

Some young people are not in a position to be able to benefit from E2E. This may be, for example, because of emotional difficulties and serious substance abuse. These young people receive a range of specialised support and provision, particularly from the voluntary and community sector providers. This type of provision is not formally evaluated, however the aim is to enable them to progress onto E2E.

The Qualifications Curriculum Authority and the LSC are working to establish an inclusive curriculum offer below level 2. It will draw from units and/or qualifications at entry level and level 1 of the Framework for Achievement and will also recognise and incorporate broader aspects. This is an important

development to support, facilitate and direct learners into units and/or qualifications both below and beyond level 2, where E2E is not the best option.

The local LSC network is working closely with the Connexions Service and the providers it contracts with, to ensure that it has appropriate programmes to enhance the range of choices to engage all young people. The Government announced, in the recent budget, plans to pilot Activity Agreements and an Activity Allowance to help re-engage 16–17 year olds who have been out of education, employment or training for some time.

EU Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many EU students are expected to receive bursary support from English universities in each year between 2006 and 2010. [3240]

Bill Rammell: Reliable information on the bursary arrangements for EU students are not available centrally. The policy on bursary arrangements for EU students is set by each institution individual institutions' access agreements may or may not include this information, as it was not required by the Office for Fair Access.

Primary School Review (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions she has had with Gloucestershire education authority on its primary school review. [6337]

Jacqui Smith: The challenge of reducing the number of surplus places is one that many local authorities currently face. However, the Government believe that planning the supply of school places is best done locally by the local authority. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient places and that high quality education is provided in a cost effective way.

Should proposals be brought forward to close schools, the School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 includes a requirement on local authorities to consult locally and publish statutory proposals. If objections are received, local independent school organisation committees will take decisions about school closures. Ministers have no direct involvement in decisions to review provision or reorganise schools.

Consequently, neither the Secretary of State nor members of her ministerial team have entered into discussions with Gloucestershire about their review of primary schools. However, officials are in regular contact with local authority officers and are aware of the steps being taken in Gloucestershire to address the problem of surplus places in the primary sector.

Pupil Exclusions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were excluded from *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the area corresponding most closely to the constituency of Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland in (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003 and (iv) 2004. [5859]

Jacqui Smith: The available information is given in the table. Figures on permanent exclusions in 2003/04 will be available from 23 June 2005.

Maintained primary and secondary schools: permanent exclusions by school type[1]

	Maintained primary		Maintained secondary	
	Number of exclusions	Percentage[2]	Number of exclusions	Percentage[2]
2000/01	[3]	[3]	5	0.10
2001/02	[3]	[3]	8	0.16
2002/03	[3]	[3]	4	0.08

[1] Permanent exclusions are collected retrospectively. The Annual Schools Census (ASC) for 2004 collected data on pupils in schools in January 2004 together with data on permanent exclusions in the school year 2002/03. Figures are as reported by schools and are unconfirmed.
[2] Number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population.
[3] 3 or less, or a rate based on 3 or less.

School Meals Trust

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the School Meals Trust. [5955]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Friend to the response that I gave to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb) on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 478W.

Special Schools

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were in each category of special school in the *(a)* state and *(b)* private sector in each of the last five years, broken down by age range. [4098]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Maintained and non-maintained special schools, independent schools approved for pupils with SEN and other independent schools: Pupils by age[1]*—2000 to 2005 (provisional)—position in January each year*

	2000				2001			
	Maintained special schools	Non maintained special schools	Independent schools approved for SEN pupils	Other independent special schools	Maintained special schools	Non maintained special schools	Independent schools approved for SEN pupils	Other independent special schools
Under 5	5,916	91	74	132	5,934	74	47	151
Total 5–10	31,406	994	996	766	30,649	910	967	799
Total 11–15	47,720	2,758	3,085	1,144	47,476	2,690	3,110	1,328
Total 16–19	6,760	925	597	174	6,904	961	599	175
Total all ages	91,802	4,768	4,752	2,216	90,963	4,635	4,723	2,453

	2002				2003			
	Maintained special schools	*Non maintained special schools*	*Independent schools approved for SEN pupils*	*Other independent special schools*	*Maintained special schools*	*Non maintained special schools*	*Independent schools approved for SEN pupils*	*Other independent special schools*
Under 5	5,882	112	50	169	5,448	71	40	192
Total 5–10	29,950	885	942	899	29,162	931	810	874
Total 11–15	46,917	2,699	3,194	1,581	47,135	2,910	3,059	1,783
Total 16–19	7,048	974	608	238	7,186	1,034	616	289
Total all ages	89,797	4,670	4,794	2,887	88,931	4,946	4,525	3,138

	2004				2005 (provisional)[2]			
	Maintained special schools	*Non maintained special schools*	*Independent schools approved for SEN pupils*	*Other independent special schools*	*Maintained special schools*	*Non maintained special schools*	*Independent schools approved for SEN pupils*	*Other independent special schools*
Under 5	4,994	79	61	107	4,620	80	50	110
Total 5–10	27,773	842	770	904	26,690	860	710	910
Total 11–15	46,622	2,809	3,136	1,925	46,260	2,790	2,980	1,850
Total 16–19	7,541	1,105	676	282	7,920	1,140	690	260
Total all ages	86,930	4,835	4,643	3,218	85,500	4,870	4,430	3,130

[1] Age as at the previous 31 August
[2] Provisional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Teacher Assaults

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have been the victims of offences of violence in Coventry, South in each of the last 10 years. [6060]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what involvement his Department will have in the Groundwater and Poverty Reduction in Africa Conference being held at Burlington House on 29 June. [5186]

Hilary Benn: Sustainable management of groundwater is critical to achieving DFID's commitments in water and sanitation. An official who leads on water resource management issues, based in DFID's Policy Division, will be participating in the Conference.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the south-east. [6259]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 85 posts out of London and the south-east by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some posts to relatively deprived areas in the south-east. As yet, DFID has not identified any posts suitable for transfer to deprived areas in the south-east.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3555]

Hilary Benn: DFID's central training team covers the Race Relations (RR(Amendment) Act 2000 through its Corporate Induction Courses, Diversity Awareness training, Management Development Courses, and its Reporting Officer Training for Line Managers. All of these courses are mandatory and the vast majority of staff will have attended at least one of them in the last few years.

In 2003 and 2004, for example, 1,659 spaces were filled on these courses. With a total staff compliment of 2,884, this suggests that up to 57 per cent. of DFID staff may have received training through one of these routes in this period. However, there will be some double counting as individuals might have attended more than one of these courses. Our current systems do not permit this level of analysis.

Other training that covers the Act may be delivered across DFID and overseas. DFID departments do not necessarily report on all training and development activities centrally, so there may be under reporting on the above figures.

Where we have identified functions that are relevant to the RR(A)AOO, we have trained staff working in these areas on both the general provisions of the Act and their duties under it. For example, our Procurement Department staff receive specific training on the

RR(A)AOO, and we have included a reference to our obligations under the RR(A)AOO in our departmental guidance. We are unable to provide precise details of the numbers of staff who have received this training or a breakdown of attendance by ethnicity and grade. However, DFID is fully aware of its obligations under the RR(A)AOO and we are currently in the process of developing a Learning Management System that will enable us to monitor both applicants for, and recipients of, all training courses by ethnicity, grade and other personal characteristics. We aim to have the learning management system in place by the end of 2006 at the latest.

However, as an interim measure, we completed a manual data collection exercise of actual training delivered, which was then analysed by ethnicity, for a 10 per cent. sample of randomly selected staff in the organisation. There was no evidence of disparities in attendance rates between ethnic groups.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications for casinos licences have been received by the Gaming Board in each month since October 2004; how many were successful; and if she will make a statement. [5758]

Mr. Caborn: The Gaming Board considers applications for Certificates of Consent for casinos. Once a Certificate of Consent is issued, operators can then apply to the Licensing Justices for a Gaming Licence. The table sets out the number of applications for Certificates of Consent in respect of new casinos that the Gaming Board has received since October 2004, and the current position on these applications. The Board also considers applications for Certificates of Consent in respect of existing casinos, where there are significant changes to the ownership or fabric of the casino. This information has not been included in the table.

	Received	*Approved*	*Withdrawn*	*Outstanding*
October 2004	2	1	0	1
November 2004	3	1	0	2
December 2004	4	[1]4	0	0
January 2005	2	[1]2	0	0
February 2005	1	1	0	0
March 2005	4	1	2	1
April 2005	1	0	0	1
May 2005	6	0	0	6
June 2005 (as at 17 June 2005)	13	0	0	13
Total	36	10	2	24

[1] One application approved by the Gaming Board is not being progressed to licensing stage by the applicants.

Club Licences

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate has been made of the number of sports and community clubs whose existing licence expires after 6 August. [5243]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* All sports and community clubs currently selling or supplying alcohol require authorisation under the Licensing Act 1964. Most of these operate as registered members clubs and do not sell alcohol to the general public. Such clubs hold club registration certificates, whilst those selling to the general public hold full justices' on-licences.

We do not have figures for the numbers of sports and community clubs in particular that hold licences or certificates. However, at 30 June 2004 there were 19,913 registered clubs in England and Wales. This number also includes political, ex-services, working men's and other clubs as well as Miners' Welfare Institutes.

DCMS deposited the source publication for these figures "Statistical Bulletin Liquor Licensing (England and Wales, July 2003-June 2004)" on 27 October 2004 in the House Libraries. This document is available on the DCMS website at: http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/statistics_outputs/liquor_licensing_statistics.htm

All such certificates and licences would cease to have effect when the new licensing regime comes into force on 24 November. It is not known centrally how many club registration certificates may expire between 6 August and 24 November. Until 24 November, it remains open to any club to apply to the magistrates courts to renew its certificate pending the coming into force of the 2003 Act.

Disabled Civil Servants (Bursary Scheme)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants in her Department participate in the Bursary Scheme for civil servants with disabilities. [4824]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport currently has one person participating in the Bursary Scheme for civil servants with disabilities.

National Lottery

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each local authority area received in Lottery awards in the last year for which figures are available; and what her estimate is of the total spend on National Lottery products in each area over the same period. [6047]

Mr. Caborn: I have arranged for a table, showing a breakdown of the value of Lottery awards during the financial year 2004–05 in each local authority area, to be placed in the Libraries of both houses. The table is derived from the Department's Lottery award database, searchable at www.lottery.culture.gsi.gov.uk, which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors. Awards which a distributor has not identified as specific to a particular location are not included in the table.

The National Lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect ticket sales data on a local authority basis. I would, however, refer my hon. Friend to an updated table of sales by postcode since the Lottery began, placed in the Libraries of both houses on 6 December 2004 in response to a written question from my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 6 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 333. Data is not routinely collected on this basis by Camelot.

National Sports Foundation

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the planned timetable for the establishment of the *(a)* National Sports Foundation and *(b)* National Investment Foundation. [6294]

Mr. Caborn: Discussions on both the National Sports Foundation and National Infrastructure Foundation are at an early stage and decisions will be taken in due course.

New Opportunities Fund

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of funding from the New Opportunities Fund Round 3 has been spent. [6299]

Mr. Caborn: Round 3 programmes include some funding from other rounds. Of the £1,834,569,000 available for distribution, 92 per cent. of this funding has been committed and 46 per cent. has been spent.

School Sport

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £750 million announced by the Prime Minister for school sport at the 2000 Labour Party Conference has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [5241]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* £670.5 million of New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES) funding has been committed to date for over 2,000 facilities, with £106 million drawn down by local education authorities.

Almost 90 per cent. of NOPES funding has now been committed. We anticipate that the remaining funding will be committed by December 2005 with the great majority of new facilities in use by spring 2006, in line with the original timetable.

Sports

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards meeting the target of 85 per cent. of five to 16-year-olds taking part in at least two hours' high-quality PE and school sport each week by 2008 and an optional extra two hours thereafter. [6298]

Mr. Caborn: The last annual survey of School Sport Partnerships in 2003–04, in which over 6,500 schools took part, showed that 62 per cent. of children were spending two hours in a typical week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum. The 2004–05 annual survey is due to be completed by the end of July and the results published in August. Plans are being developed on the provision of opportunities for school children to engage in sport for an additional 2–3 hours outside the school day.

Sports Facilities

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards meeting the Department's aim that by 2008 almost no one will live more than 20 minutes travel time away from a good multi-sports environment. [6295]

Mr. Caborn: In order to make progress towards the aim as expressed in DCMS's Five Year Plan, the Government have put in place a number of national programmes and by 2006 over £1 billion will have been invested in 4,000 sports facilities and club development, through either development of new facilities or major refurbishment of existing ones. In addition DCMS have supported the introduction of provisions in the Finance Act 2002 to allow community amateur sports clubs to benefit from a package of tax and rates relief. The scheme's purpose is to enable grass roots sport to grow and develop so that the widest possible range of people can participate in healthy recreation. To date the scheme has brought more than £5 million into grass roots sport, benefiting some 2,500 clubs.

DCMS is also pursuing a number of activities aimed at helping local authorities to revitalise their leisure facilities:

work is under way on developing a comprehensive facilities strategy, to map supply, demand and priorities for investment. This is expected to be concluded by 2006;

the Audit Commission is undertaking a study to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of options for delivering local authority sports facilities. The study is expected to report in autumn 2005;

we are looking at options to provide incentives to local authorities to prioritise sport through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment from 2006;

we are working with ODPM to ensure that sports facilities planning guidance is rigorous, fit for purpose and free of unnecessary barriers; and

we are seeking to identify the best ways of accessing the capital to build facilities.

Sports Survey 2005

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to publish the results of the sports participation survey to be carried out by her Department, beginning in autumn 2005. [6296]

Mr. Caborn: The Department expects to publish the first quarter results of the participation survey by the end of 2005.

Swimming Pools (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authority maintained swimming pools there were per 1,000 population in each London borough in the last year for which figures are available. [5318]

Mr. Caborn: The number of swimming pools per 1,000 population in each London borough is shown in the table. At present, the only data held by Sport England is for the combined number of both local authority and private pools and the figures therefore include pools owned by schools, private leisure centres and health clubs, etc.

In order to present an accurate picture of swimming pool provision, I also include the ratio of total swimming pool area in metres^2 per 1,000 population, which takes into account the size of the pools in each borough.

London borough	*Total population*	*Total number of pools*	*Ratio of pools per 1,000 population*	*Total pool area in metres^2*	*Capacity ratio per 1,000*
Barking and Dagenham	163,932	8	0.049	1,298.75	7.92
Barnet	314,506	22	0.070	4,260.75	13.55
Bexley	218,316	14	0.064	2,550.32	11.68
Brent	263,507	8	0.030	1,068	4.05
Bromley	295,544	28	0.095	7,125.51	24.11
Camden	198,038	25	0.126	5,379.28	27.16
City of London	7,162	14	1.955	2,285.9	319.17
City of Westminster	181,276	40	0.221	8,014.75	44.21
Croydon	330,562	28	0.085	6,414.03	19.40
Ealing	300,975	26	0.086	4,463.5	14.83
Enfield	273,530	16	0.058	3,726.15	13.62
Greenwich	214,412	16	0.075	4,377	20.41
Hackney	202,832	5	0.025	876.5	4.32
Hammersmith and Fulham	165,156	18	0.109	3,173	19.21
Haringey	216,498	16	0.074	3,618.25	16.71
Harrow	206,822	11	0.049	2,517.5	12.17
Havering	224,243	12	0.054	2,621.24	11.69
Hillingdon	243,065	20	0.082	3,721	15.31
Hounslow	212,340	16	0.075	3,490	16.44
Islington	175,792	14	0.080	3,368.5	19.16
Kensington and Chelsea	158,902	16	0.101	2,350	14.79
Kingston upon Thames	147,218	21	0.143	2,099	14.26
Lambeth	266,143	11	0.041	3,281	12.33
Lewisham	248,910	9	0.036	1,873.5	7.53
Merton	187,924	14	0.074	2,907.5	15.47
Newham	243,820	10	0.041	1,973.5	8.09
Redbridge	238,666	11	0.046	2,332.5	9.77
Richmond upon Thames	172,345	19	0.110	3,725.9	21.62
Southwark	244,877	17	0.069	3,110.08	12.70
Sutton	179,799	12	0.067	2,071.75	11.52
Tower Hamlets	196,141	11	0.056	2,315.5	11.81
Waltham Forest	218,278	15	0.069	2,582.5	11.83
Wandsworth	260,393	20	0.077	7,388.53	28.38

Taxis

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6501]

Mr. Caborn: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in the Department's staff handbook.

The following table shows departmental expenditure on taxis.

£

Financial year	*Amount*
2004–05	22,157.08
2003–04	21,878.36
2002–03	17,905.60
2001–02	20,811.56
2000–01	26,414.81

Tote

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 583W, on the Tote, what additional information was provided to the EU Commission on *(a)* 9 September 2004 and *(b)* 1 March; and what matters were discussed in her meeting with Commissioner Kroes on 27 May. [5146]

Mr. Caborn: In September 2004 the Government responded to the European Commission's request to provide more information about the valuation of the Tote, its ownership, the future relationship between the Tote and Racing, the proposed exclusive licence, the conditions of the sale and the pool betting market.

In March 2005 the Government wrote to the Commission providing additional information about the valuation of the Tote and its ownership. We also provided details of why we believe any aid involved in the sale of the Tote is compatible with the principles of the Common Market. In addition we sought to place the sale of the Tote within a bigger picture of the liberalisation of the gambling market in Britain.

When I met with Commissioner Kroes in May 2005 we discussed the Commission's on-going concerns about the sale. The Commission announced on 1 June that they would be opening a formal investigation into the sale and will publish a formal notice to that effect in due course.

CABINET OFFICE

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many officials currently in the Cabinet Office received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5125]

Mr. Hutton: Details of all honours awards are published in the *London Gazette*. Details of whether officials recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list have stayed within their respective Departments have not been maintained.

A table giving details of awards to officials within specified Departments has today been placed in the Library.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the additional troop deployments to Afghanistan; and whether costs will be met from existing departmental budgets. [5145]

Mr. Ingram: Planning continues for the deployment of the Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) Group to lead the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from May 2006. We are also developing plans for the deployment of forces to enable the United Kingdom to play a key role in Stage 3 of ISAF expansion in the south of Afghanistan.

Until that planning is complete, it would be premature and potentially misleading to speculate about the cost of potential deployments, which, as with all net additional costs of operations, we would expect to be funded from the reserve.

An announcement will be made to Parliament once decisions have been made.

Army Personnel Research Establishment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of respondents to Army Personnel Research Establishment polls is. [5991]

Mr. Touhig: The Army Personnel Research Establishment no longer exists. The Services each have their own Continuous Attitude Surveys (CAS). The response figures for the two Army CAS surveys in 2004 is as follows:

	Army CAS surveys	
Number surveyed	7,182	9,672
Average percentage respondents	40	39

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how frequently Army Personnel Research Establishment polls are conducted. [5992]

Mr. Touhig: The Army Continuous Attitude Survey core programme consists of the serving personnel survey which is conducted biannually, and the Territorial Army and families surveys (sent to spouses of married officers and soldiers), which are conducted annually.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will direct the Army Personnel Research Establishment to include a question in its next poll asking soldiers whether they had problems registering to vote in the 2005 general election; [6056]

(2) if he will make use of the Army Personnel Research Establishment polls to investigate how many soldiers were registered to vote in the 2005 general election. [6050]

Mr. Touhig: My noble Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement (Lord Drayson) announced on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column WA62, in another place that we are presently looking at the possibility of carrying out a survey. All surveys need to be carefully framed and then considered as part of the normal sequence of information gathering and analysis. Any such survey would be conducted on a tri-Service basis and not confined to the Army, and would need to be justified by reference to needs, costs and likely benefits.

Compassionate Leave

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the grounds which constitute a basis for compassionate leave of absence from active military duty. [6410]

Mr. Touhig: The purpose of compassionate leave is to allow Service personnel an authorised period of absence to enable them to attend to a personal crisis. There is no definitive list of occasions when it is appropriate to allow compassionate leave to be taken as each case requires individual, objective and sensitive assessment.

Defence Systems and Equipment Exhibition

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Ministers from his Department will be attending the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition in September. [3941]

Mr. Ingram: Defence Ministers have previously attended this biennial event, but for safety and security reasons it is not our practice to publicise Ministers' forward programmes.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Ministers from his Department attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition in 2003; and which overseas delegates each met. [3942]

Mr. Ingram: My right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), my noble Friend the Lord Bach of Lutterworth and I attended the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition in 2003. Ministers or Ministry of Defence officials met delegations that were officially invited to the event. Official delegations attended from the following countries:

Algeria
Australia
Austria

Bahrain
Belgium
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Colombia
PRC (China)
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
India
Republic of Ireland
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Republic of Korea
Kuwait
Malaysia
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Thailand
Trinidad & Tobago
Turkey
UAE
USA
Vietnam
Venezuela.

Fleet Submarines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fleet submarines are operational. [5929]

Mr. Ingram: On 17 June 2005, nine SSN (Swiftsure and Trafalgar Class) and three SSBN (Vanguard Class) submarines were available for tasking by CINCFLEET.

Forces Training

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the training schemes available to members of overseas armed forces *(a)* at his Department's establishments in the UK and *(b)* given by members of the UK armed forces overseas. [4812]

Mr. Touhig: The availability of training courses to members of overseas armed forces is administered though three single-Service Training Agencies. A summary of the types of courses which are available to members of overseas armed forces at establishments in the UK is shown in the following lists:

Types of training available to international students at UK establishments

International Defence Training (Royal Navy)

Air Engineering
Aviation
Degree Courses
Diving
English Language Training
Global Maritime Distress and Safety System General Operators Certificate
Hydrography, Meteorology and Oceanography
Junior Officer Training
Leadership Training
Logistics Officer Training
Marine Engineering
Medical
Mine Warfare
Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Operations
Physical Training
Rating New Entry
Royal Marine Training
Seamanship
Sea Survival
Senior Upper Yardman Training
Submarine Training
Training Management
Weapon Engineering Training

International Defence Training (Army)

Ammunition and Explosives
Animal Training
Armour
Army Aviation
Artillery
Catering
Communication Information Systems
Close Protection
Combined Arms Training
Drill
Driving
Electrical and Mechanical Engineering
Finance and Administration
Infantry
Initial Officer Training

Intelligence
Information Technology
Language
Logistics
Medical
Military Engineering
Music
Police Training
Physical Training
Search
Staff Training
Survey
Technical Degree courses

International Defence Training (Royal Air Force)

Air Warfare
Airmen's Command and Management Training
Airmen's Specialist Training
Command and Staff Training Engineer
English Language Training
Environmental Protection
Fire Fighting
Flying Related Training
Flying Training
Health and Safety
Instructor Training
Joint Logistics and Other Specialist Training
Management and Procedural Training
Medical and Dental
Nuclear, Biological and Chemical
Officers' Miscellaneous Training
Parachute Training
Physical Education
Police and Security
Quality Assurance
Regiment Training
Supply

Further details of this training can be found at the following websites:

www.idtroyalnavy.mod.uk
www.britisharmytraining.mod.uk
www.idtraf.mod.uk

Attendance on these courses is dependent upon the level of security clearance that has been afforded to the country requesting the training and the security level of the course content.

Details of training assistance currently given by members of the UK armed forces overseas are outlined in the following lists:

Types of training assistance given by members of the UK armed forces overseas

International Defence Training (Royal Navy)

Anti-Air Warfare Training
Board and Search Training
Communications Training
Develop Navigation Training
Exclusive Economic Zone
Protection Officer Training
Practical Training at Sea for Coast Guard Vessels

International Defence Training (Army)

Ammunition Training
Armour-Gunnery Training
Border Management Training
Close Protection Training
Combined Arms Training
Communications and Information Systems Training
Infantry Training
Intelligence Training
International Explosives
Disposal Device
Logistics Training
Mine Clearance
Operational Training Advisory Group
Operations in Built Up Areas
Peace Support
Police Training
Recruit
Surveillance

International Defence Training (Royal Air Force)

Advise on non-Commissioned Officer development
Analysis of Training and Instructional Design
Forward Air Controller Training
Instructional Techniques Course
Military Training
Peace Support
Personnel Selection Advice
Quality Assurance Course
Quality Audit of UK Training
Qualified Helicopter Instructors
Search and Rescue Advice
Security Forces Training
Security Sector Reform

Fylingdales

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what mechanism the US authorities pay the Ministry of Defence Police Agency for policing activities at Fylingdales. [5977]

Mr. Ingram: The US authorities do not contribute towards the cost of policing at RAF Fylingdales.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the policing arrangements are at Fylingdales; how many people have been arrested there in each of the last five years; and what discussions the local police have had with demonstrators. [5978]

Mr. Ingram: RAF Fylingdales is policed by a complement of Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) officers under the command of a chief inspector as the senior police officer. Groups of officers on duty are under the command of a duty inspector. A normal relief consists of a mixture of armed officers, unarmed officers and dog handlers.

Since September 2002 a total of 14 persons have been arrested at demonstrations held at Fylingdales for endangering the safety of themselves and others and for committing criminal damage to the security perimeter fence.

All demonstrations at Fylingdales are policed jointly by the MDP and North Yorkshire police and regular operational planning meetings are held in advance of all such events to ensure optimum safety and security. Prior to any planned demonstration both MDP and North Yorkshire police contact the organiser to discuss the event and the policing arrangements. On the day of any demonstration officers consult with the organiser again to emphasise where protestors can demonstrate safely and the areas they need to avoid. An information leaflet is given to all protesters on the day of the event.

Iraq

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trained personnel have gone absent without leave in Iraq in each of the services since March 2003. [4254]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* None.

Joint Casualty Treatment Ship

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original timetable was for producing the design of the Joint Casualty Treatment Ship; and what the current schedule is. [3878]

Mr. Ingram: A review of the programme to provide a Joint Casualty Treatment Ship (JCTS), formerly know as the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship, is taking place this year which will further inform the requirement and influence the design of the vessel. No decisions on the timescales for producing the design have been made.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4124]

Mr. Ingram: Detailed information on the number and cost of laptop computers used by Ministers, special advisers and officials of the Ministry of Defence each year since 1995 is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total number of laptops in use in MOD is not centrally recorded since purchase is delegated to individual business units. The approximate number currently in use (covering laptops purchased in the last four years and held by both MOD civilians and Service personnel) is estimated to be in the order of 46,000 at an overall cost of £69 million.

75 laptop computers belonging to the Ministry of Defence (including the armed forces) are recorded as having been lost and 590 as having been stolen since 1995.

The Ministry of Defence is alert to the vulnerabilities of laptops and security policy and procedures are continually being reviewed and revised to introduce measures to reduce the numbers of laptops stolen or lost, and to mitigate the impact when losses occur.

Menwith Hill

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the payments made by the US Government for the use of the Menwith Hill base in North Yorkshire for each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement. [5263]

Mr. Ingram: The US Government do not pay Her Majesty's Government for the use of RAF Menwith Hill, as the base is made available to the United States Visiting Force under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Project

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the companies to whom pre-qualification questionnaires for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability project have been issued; when they are due to be returned; when a shortlist of companies will be decided upon; and if he will make a statement. [2350]

Mr. Ingram: Pre-Qualification Questionnaires for the competition to select the Integrator for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme have been issued to the following 16 companies:

Amec
Babcock Engineering Services
BAE Systems
James Fisher & Sons
General Dynamics UK
Moulder Offshore Co
KBR
Lockheed Martin
Maersk
Qinetiq
Raytheon Systems Ltd
SAIC
Serco Defence
Swan Hunter
Thales Group
VT Group

Responses were due to be returned to the Defence Procurement Agency (DPA) by 14 June 2005.

MARS is in the Concept Phase and no decisions have yet been made on the scope, timings or costs of the programme.

Military Estate

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the land and buildings owned by *(a)* the Defence Aviation and Repair Agency, *(b)* his Department, *(c)* the RAF, *(d)* the Royal Navy and *(e)* the Army that are (i) for sale, (ii) for lease and (iii) under discussion for possible disposal. [5763]

Mr. Touhig: Apart from Trading Funds such as the Defence Aviation and Repair Agency (DARA), all property is owned centrally by the Ministry of Defence

rather than the individual Services, a list of which can be found on the National Asset Register website: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Documents/Public_Spending_and_Services/National_Asset_Register/pss_nar_2001 index.cfm

Details of all MOD properties and land currently listed for sale are available in the Library of the House. Since the sites identified for disposal can change, the list is kept under review and is generally updated quarterly.

Until final decisions on disposals have been formally announced and been subject to normal consultations, it would be inappropriate to list sites under discussion for possible future disposal.

No central record of land and buildings for lease is held by the MOD, due to their tendency to be localised and of limited duration.

Prisoners of War (Compensation)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the parliamentary ombudsman to report on the outcome of the complaint by civilian internees of the Japanese excluded from the compensation scheme; and if he will make a statement. [6070]

Mr. Touhig: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 665W, to the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes).

Shackleton Aircraft

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many representations his Department has received from former air servicemen reporting "Shackleton" ear hearing problems. [6287]

Mr. Touhig: This information is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has undertaken on the long-term hearing effects on aircrew of Shackleton aircraft. [6288]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence has identified two research documents on the hearing effects on aircrew of the Shackleton aircraft. These are:

"Test Note 292—Noise Measurement in Shackleton Aircraft" produced in October 1950 by the Royal Aircraft Establishment

"Pitch Discrimination as Influenced by Medium Term Length in Shackleton Aircraft" produced in May 1963 by the Royal Air Force Central Medical Establishment.

It is not possible to establish whether any other research documents into this subject have been produced without incurring disproportionate cost.

Territorial Army (Lancaster)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that, under the current review of Territorial Army centres in the United Kingdom, the centre in Lancaster is retained. [5144]

Mr. Touhig: Further to my reply on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 18W, to the hon. Member, current work on rebalancing the Territorial Army is expected to come to fruition later in the year. I will ensure that the hon. Member is informed of the outcome in due course.

Troop Deployment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army reservists undertook active deployment in the last year for which statistics are available; and in which deployments. [6338]

Mr. Touhig: The following numbers of army reservists were mobilised and deployed in the 12 months preceding 1 May 2005: some 2,930 to Iraq; some 210 to the Balkans; some 70 to Afghanistan and a number fewer than five to Sierra Leone.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the deployment of troops in Kosovo. [5930]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 977–79.

Wassenaar Agreement

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the last occasion was on which *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* officials from his Department discussed the Wassenaar Arrangement with (i) Ministers and (ii) officials at the Department of Trade and Industry; and if he will make a statement. [4876]

Mr. Ingram: From available records covering the last five years, there have been no specific discussions between DTI and MOD Ministers on the Wassenaar Arrangement.

MOD and DTI officials regularly discuss the Wassenaar Arrangement. These discussions may include the FCO which has the overall policy lead on matters relating to such multilateral export control activities. The last Wassenaar Arrangement related discussion between MOD and DTI officials was on 15 June 2005.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths in Northern Ireland in each year since 2000 have been attributable to clostridium difficile. [6146]

Angela E. Smith: For the period 2001 to 2004 the total number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland where "enterocolitis due to *clostridium difficile*"[1] *was mentioned on the death certificate is given in the following table. The table also includes the number of deaths where "enterocolitis due to clostridium difficile"* was the underlying cause of death. Figures for earlier years are not available as the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision was used prior to 2001, and no specific code for this condition exists in the previous version of the International Classification of Diseases.

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code A04.7 for years 2001–04.

Table: Number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland with "enterocolitis due to clostridium difficile" mentioned on the death certificate, and the number of these where it was also the underlying cause of death, 2001–04

	2001	2002	2003	[1]2004
"Enterocolitis due to *clostridium difficile*" mentioned on the death certificate	13	24	28	37
of which: "Enterocolitis due to *clostridium difficile*" is the underlying cause of death	7	10	13	15

[1] Data for 2004 is provisional.

Donaghadee Treatment Works

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons he decided to invoke Crown Immunity in proceeding with his decision to site a new wastewater treatment works at Donaghadee, County Down; and for what the reason the decision was made after the prorogation of Parliament. [5960]

Angela E. Smith: The planning application in respect of the Waste Water Treatment Works at Donaghadee was a Crown Development application. It was processed in the normal manner and was assessed on its individual merits against the prevailing planning policies and planning considerations for the area.

The final approval notice issued on 4 April 2005 before the prorogation of Parliament.

Food Poisoning

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of food poisoning there have been in the Province in each of the last five years. [5352]

Mr. Woodward: The number of cases of food poisoning reported in the Province in each of the last five years is detailed in the table.

Calendar year	*Number of cases*
2004[1]	1,666
2003	1,268
2002	1,220
2001	1,644
2000	2,285

[1] The figure for 2004 is provisional and is liable to change as further reports for this period are received.

Note:

Figures relate to the calendar year.

Health Trust Administration Costs

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the administration cost of each of the health trusts in Northern Ireland was in the 2004–05 financial year. [5503]

Mr. Woodward: The 2004–05 annual accounts for each of the health trusts in Northern Ireland, which contain information on the administration costs for the financial year are not due for finalisation until 26 August 2005, and therefore this information will not be available until this date.

Jobseeker's Allowance (Fishermen)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Class II fishermen claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* contributions and *(b)* income-based categories in (i) Portavogie, (ii) Kilkeel and (iii) Ardglass in each of the last three years. [5733]

Mr. Hanson: Separate statistics are not collected on claims to social security benefits by fishermen. I am therefore not able to say how many Class II fishermen have received benefits in the areas requested in the last three years.

NHS Direct

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to extend provision of NHS Direct to Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [5324]

Mr. Woodward: In Northern Ireland each of the four Health and Social Services Boards currently operate their own daytime telephone advice line. Out-of-hours providers for which each board is responsible deliver access to advice and services outside normal office hours. The Department is working with the four boards to consider further development of these services on a regional basis.

Northern Bank Robbery

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress made by the police service of Northern Ireland in its investigation of the Northern Bank robbery of 20 December 2004; and for what reasons there have been no arrests. [6154]

Mr. Woodward: The investigation into the Northern Bank robbery on 20 December is ongoing and continues to be one of the largest investigations currently undertaken by the PSNI. By the very nature of the crime committed, the investigation is complex, methodical and resource intensive and to date over 3,300 separate investigative actions have been raised. PSNI remain committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice but as with any serious crime investigation, the police will only conduct searches or make arrests at a time that is in the best interests of the investigation and the administration of justice.

Occupational Therapy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time for assessment for occupational therapy is in each hospital trust in the Province. [5343]

Mr. Woodward: Information on average and longest waiting times for occupational therapist assessment in hospital trusts is not collected as occupational therapy is primarily a community-based service. Information is, however, available on the time individuals aged 19 and over had waited for assessment by community occupational therapists to commence, according to specified time band. The number of adults in each time band is shown in the table in respect of assessments commenced in the quarter ending 31 December 2004, the latest date for which such information is available.

Information is provided for priority cases and non-priority cases separately, as different categories are used for recording.

Time waited for commencement of assessment by community occupational therapists, quarter ending 31 December 2004

Time waited for commencement of assessment by community occupational therapists, quarter ending 31 December 2004

	Number of adults
Priority cases	
Less than two weeks	3,561
Two weeks and under one month	1,136
One month and over	1,102
Total	5,799
Non-priority cases	
Less than three months	2,214
Three months to under six months	439
Six months and over	1,082
Total	3,735

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients are awaiting assessment for occupational therapy in each health trust area in the Province. [5344]

Mr. Woodward: The numbers of individuals aged 19 and over awaiting assessment for occupational therapy at 31 December 2004 for each Health and Social Services Trust, according to priority and non-priority cases, are shown in the following table.

	Priority cases	*Other (non-priority) cases*	*Total*
North and West Belfast	343	1,072	1,415
South and East Belfast	57	195	252
Ulster Community and Hospital	22	600	622
Down Lisburn	70	694	764
Causeway	357	747	1,104
Homefirst	726	1,034	1,760
Armagh and Dungannon	19	303	322
Craigavon and Banbridge	461	360	821
Newry and Mourne	143	964	1,107
Foyle	247	1,348	1,595
Sperrin Lakeland	210	522	732
Northern Ireland	2,655	7,839	10,494

Olympic Bid

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department in promoting London's 2012 Olympic bid in Northern Ireland. [5513]

Mr. Hanson: Expenditure of £55,113.87, excluding VAT, has been incurred in promoting London's Olympic bid in Northern Ireland.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been earmarked by his Department for Northern Ireland's participation in hosting the Olympic Games in 2012 should London's bid be successful. [5514]

Mr. Hanson: The Government and the Mayor of London have estimated that a public funding package of £2.375 billion would be required to host the Games should London's bid be successful. It is too early to earmark funding for Northern Ireland's participation in hosting the Games.

Postal Votes

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many postal votes were issued in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland at the last general election; and of those issued, how many people went on to vote by post. [3503]

Mr. Hanson: This issue is an operational matter and is the responsibility of the chief electoral officer who is writing to the hon. Lady. The letter contains the following information:

Constituency	*Postal ballot papers issued*	*Postal ballot papers returned*
Belfast East	584	493
Belfast North	570	488
Belfast South	681	492
Belfast West	743	586
East Antrim	622	517
East Londonderry	1,647	1,399
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	4,559	4,060
Foyle	2,515	2,210
Lagan Valley	1,087	941
Mid Ulster	2,891	2,659
Newry and Armagh	1,873	1,664
North Antrim	1,444	1,245
North Down	727	577
South Antrim	711	633
South Down	2,041	1,749
Strangford	861	722
Upper Bann	1,162	1,043
West Tyrone	2,962	2,722
Total	27,680	24,200

Railway Crossing (Lurgan)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many trains pass through Lurgan on weekdays; and for how long on average each day William Street is closed to traffic and pedestrians as a result. [5247]

Mr. Woodward: 110 trains pass through Lurgan on each weekday, 55 in each direction. This necessitates the closure of the barrier at William Street for approximately two minutes on each occasion. As a result, the William Street barrier is closed in total for approximately three hours and 40 minutes daily.

WORK AND PENSIONS

"Inspire" Magazine

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* circulation of "Inspire" magazine was in the last year for which figures are available. [4511]

Margaret Hodge: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Tim Boswell, dated 22 June 2005:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the costs and circulation of the Jobcentre Plus 'Inspire' magazine. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

'Inspire' is designed to promote Jobcentre Plus services to customers by offering real examples of how others have been helped to get or keep employment. It encourages customers to help themselves by making use of our services, including the Jobseeker Direct telephone line and website. We plan to produce 'Inspire' four times a year.

To date, two editions of 'Inspire' have been produced. The cost per edition has averaged £70,400 for 210,000 copies (33 pence per copy). 'Inspire' is mainly distributed to our customers through Jobcentre Plus offices, but copies are also sent to external organisations such as Citizens Advice and doctors' surgeries. 'Inspire' is also available on our website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk.

I hope this is helpful.

Acts of Parliament

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which his Department is responsible available online. [3740]

Mr. Timms: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended. To publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government are, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

Incapacity/Invalidity Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent average time taken between an application for incapacity benefit being received and the personal capacity assessment. [1340]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of *(a)* invalidity benefit and *(b)* incapacity benefit (i) in cash terms, (ii) in real terms and (iii) as a proportion of the benefit budget for people of working age has been in each of the last 30 years. [1875]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* The available information is in the tables.

Total expenditure on incapacity related benefits by year in nominal and real terms

	Total invalidity benefit, sickness benefit and severe disablement allowance (nominal terms)[1]	*Total invalidity benefit, sickness benefit and severe disablement allowance (real terms, 2005–06 prices)*[1]
1974–75	665	4,544
1975–76	885	4,824
1976–77	1,093	5,252
1977–78	1,331	5,631
1978–79	1,605	6,117
1979–80	1,735	5,660
1980–81	1,912	5,279
1981–82	2,180	5,495
1982–83	2,301	5,417
1983–84	2,319	5,220
1984–85	2,657	5,684
1985–86	2,891	5,868
1986–87	3,138	6,172
1987–88	3,457	6,439
1988–99	3,868	6,735
1989–90	4,386	7,135
1990–91	5,076	7,653
1991–92	6,355	9,037
1992–93	7,214	9,934
1993–94	8,136	10,913
1994–95	8,823	11,665

	Total incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance (nominal terms)[1,2]	*Total incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance (real terms, 2005–06 prices)*[1,2]
1995–96	8,726	11,213
1996–97	8,567	10,651
1997–98	8,411	10,195
1998–99	8,235	9,702
1999–2000	7,796	8,990
2000–01	7,780	8,868
2001–02	7,789	8,657
2002–03	7,716	8,292
2003–04	7,575	7,918

[1] Information on income support (IS) paid to Short term sick and Long term sick and disabled client groups is not available prior to 1991–92, so IS expenditure is not shown for all years. As many incapacity benefit (IB) claimants receive income via IS, expenditure presented here is less than is usually quoted for total IB expenditure.

[2] Incapacity benefit (IB) replaced invalidity benefit and sickness benefit in 1995–96. However, IB expenditure for 1995–96 includes a small amount of sickness and invalidity benefit.

Note:

All figures are expressed in £ million and are rounded to the nearest £ million.

Source:

DWP Benefit expenditure tables 1, 2, 3a and 4a.

Expenditure on working-age incapacity related benefits by year in nominal and real terms, and as a proportion of working age expenditure

	Total invalidity benefit, sickness benefit and severe disablement allowance paid to people of working age (nominal terms)[1,2,3]	*Total invalidity benefit, sickness benefit and severe disablement allowance paid to people of working age (real terms, 2005–06 prices)*[1,2,3]	*Proportion of working age expenditure*[4] *(percentage)*
1991–92	5,341	7,595	25
1992–93	6,065	8,352	24
1993–94	6,859	9,200	24
1994–95	7,467	9,873	26

	Total incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance paid to people of working age (nominal terms) [1,2,3]	*Total incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance paid to people of working age (real terms, 2005–06 prices)* [1,2,3]	*Proportion of working age expenditure*[4] *(percentage)*
1995–96	7,543	9,692	25
1996–97	7,594	9,441	25
1997–98	7,607	9,220	26
1998–99	7,660	9,025	26
1999–2000	7,491	8,638	27
2000–01	7,614	8,679	28
2001–02	7,623	8,473	28
2002–03	7,553	8,117	27
2003–04	7,406	7,741	26

[1] Information on income support (IS) paid to Short term sick and Long term sick and disabled client groups is not available prior to 1991–92, so IS expenditure is not shown for all years. As many incapacity benefit (IB) claimants receive income via IS, expenditure presented here is less than is usually quoted for total IB expenditure.

[2] Incapacity benefit (IB) replaced invalidity benefit and sickness benefit in 1995–96. However, IB expenditure for 1995–96 includes a small amount of sickness and invalidity benefit.

[3] The working age expenditure is consistent with published figures for DWP Objective 2, to "promote work as the best form of welfare for people of working age, while protecting the position of those in greatest need". Information prior to 1991–92 is unavailable.

[4] The working age proportion is part of the total working age expenditure published under DWP Objective 2, which includes expenditure on housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Note:
All figures are expressed in £ million and are rounded to the nearest £ million.

Source:
DWP Benefit expenditure tables 1, 2, 3a and 4a.

Jobcentre Plus (Staff Training)

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice and training is available for employees of Jobcentre Plus on autistic spectrum disorders. [4429]

Margaret Hodge: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, David Anderson. She will write to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mrs. Janet Dean, dated 22 June 2005:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question regarding the advice and training available to Jobcentre Plus employees on autistic spectrum disorders. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

It may be helpful to explain that we have a Disability Awareness Open Learning Handbook which details autistic spectrum disorders; the effects they have on individuals; the implications for work, and the possible types of support an individual might need in employment. This information was approved by the National Autistic Society and is recommended learning for all advisers and mandatory learning for Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs). We are currently working with the Society to enhance our learning materials further.

In addition, all Jobcentre Plus staff have access to information about autistic spectrum disorders through guidance on our Intranet.

I hope this is helpful.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people on incapacity benefit in the Pathways to Work pilot areas have refused to engage with the job-search and support staff; and if he will make a statement. [2107]

Margaret Hodge: People claiming incapacity benefits in Pathways to Work areas are not required to undertake job-search activities. However they may be sanctioned for failing to attend or take part in a work focused interview (WFI) with a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser.

Between April 2004 and March 2005 92,420 people entered Pathways to Work pilot programmes, of whom 28,949 people had an initial WFI. 17,363 people went on to have one or more repeat WFIs. In the period from December 2004 to April 2005 182 sanctions were imposed. Some individuals may have had more than one sanction imposed on them so the figure is a close approximation but not the exact number of individuals sanctioned.

Private Finance Projects

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the private finance initiative and public-private partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2366]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently engaged in 11 public-private partnerships, of which nine are private finance initiatives. The status of each of these is operational. These are a combination of those let to April 2001 by the former Department for Social Security and the Employment Service, which was an executive agency of the former Department for Education and Employment; and those let subsequently by the DWP.

The nine DWP private finance initiatives are:

1. PRIME (Private Sector Resource Initiative for the Management of the Estate). A 20-year PFI partnership deal competitively awarded by the then Department of Social Security to Trillium (now called Land Securities Trillium) on 1 April 1998. This will provide serviced offices until 2018 in return for payments over the life of the contract estimated at £2.008 billion in net present value. Following the creation of DWP in June 2001 the former Employment Service estate was transferred to Land Securities Trillium from 15 December 2003 under an expansion of the PRIME contract. The National Audit Office has carried out an independent scrutiny of this transaction and its report was published on 26 January 2005.

2. A 10-year PFI IT Partnership (ITP) between the Employment Service and EDS for the provision of IT and telephony services awarded in August 1998 and extending to July 2008. So far this has developed and delivered the "Modernising ES" IT initiative, including the set up of Jobpoints, and will continue to provide all ES IT and development of innovations.

3. A PFI partnership between the Employment Service and Northgate HR (formerly Rebus Human Resources Services) awarded in February 1999 to deliver human resources services, including payroll and personnel administration.

These services will be delivered under this contract until they are incorporated into the new, DWP-wide resource management system currently being developed.

4. A 10-year PFI deal for the Strategic Outsourcing Business Allocation (SOBA) awarded to Affinity consortium (EDS, IBM and PricewaterhouseCoopers) on 8 August 2000.

5. A 10-year PFI deal for the Child Support Reforms business allocation awarded to Affinity on 8 August 2000.

6. A five-year PFI deal to deliver Wide Area Network (WAN) services awarded to Arcway consortium (BT Syntegra) in November 2000.

7. A four-year PFI deal to support Pensions Forecasting awarded to Affinity on 6 June 2002.

8. An eight-year PFI deal to support New Tax Credit systems awarded to Affinity on 13 December 2002; and

9. A five-year PFI deal to provide advanced telephony services to contact centres awarded to Arcway in April 2003.

The Department's private finance initiatives and annual expenditure are all disclosed in the Department's Resource Accounts. This information is recorded in the operating cost statement. There is also a separate section, "Commitments under PFI Contracts", that lists all the PFI contracts and discloses the total payments to which the Department is committed in the next financial year.

The Department's Resource Account is available in the Library and can be accessed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2004/res_ac/report.pdf

In addition the Department has two public-private partnership agreements—a Lead Service Provider agreement made with Affinity in September 2000 and a Network and Office Service Provider (NOSP) agreement made with Arcway in November 2000.

Unemployment (Young People)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to encourage unemployed young people to learn new skills. [2955]

Margaret Hodge: The Government recognise the importance of ensuring that our current and future work force have access to relevant training to ensure they have the skills required by employers to get into and get on in work.

From 1997 to March 2005, 1.22 million young people aged between 18 and 24 have improved their job prospects and raised their skills levels through New Deal for Young People (NDYP), and of these 460,550 have moved into work. NDYP offers four options; a period of full-time education and training, voluntary work with training, participation on an environmental task force which combines training with community focused work experience and a subsided employment option. Skills training is available on all four options.

From April 2004 we gave New Deal personal advisers the flexibility to individually tailor provision to allow participants to move freely between options. Young people are encouraged to take part in the options by a weekly "top-up" payment of £15.38. Those who refuse to take part in the options period can face benefit sanctions.

Jobcentre Plus Districts are also working with local Learning and Skills Councils (LSCs), through annual joint delivery plans. These ensure that customers without a qualification, or with less than a level 2 qualification, are given the opportunity to access skills training funded by the LSC where that training is needed to gain sustainable, productive employment.

There are also opportunities for Jobcentre Plus clients to train in the work environment. Access to training in employment has increased through the successful Employer Training Pilots. The Government's decision to develop these principles through a national Employer Training Programme will further increase these opportunities. The Skills for Business Network also works with the LSC and Jobcentre Plus to increase access to Modern Apprenticeships by disadvantaged young people and adults.

PRIME MINISTER

Engagements

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Prime Minister what official engagements he has for July and August. [6058]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

Taxis

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6491]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I have therefore asked my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Hutton) to reply. A copy of the reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan (Participation of Women)

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in Afghanistan in line with the Berlin Declaration with particular reference to provision for the participation of women in all sectors of the economy and society. [6039]

Dr. Howells: Women's rights have improved dramatically since the fall of the Taliban and progress continues to be made under the new government. Ensuring that women play a full role in Afghan society remains an important priority for the international community. In many areas ordinary women are now able to work and move about freely in a way that was impossible under the Taliban. The new constitution specifically protects women's rights and reserves a proportion of seats in parliament for women candidates. For last year's presidential elections, over 40 per cent. of those registered to vote were women. 40 per cent. of those who actually voted were women. Presidential candidates included one woman. President Karzai's cabinet includes two women, Dr. Massooda Jalal, Minister of Women's Affairs and Sediqa Balkhi, Minister of Martyrs and Disabled. Habiba Sarabi became Afghanistan's first female Governor (of Bamiyan) earlier this year.

Securing the full participation of women in all sectors of the economy and society will take time. To this end, the UK has a regular dialogue with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and is committed to working with the Afghan government and its international partners to improve women's ability to exercise their rights.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development have agreed a comprehensive Gender Strategy for 2004–05, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed in all sectors, programmes and policies in Afghanistan. [6040]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office/ Department for International Development Gender Strategy for Afghanistan remains the cornerstone of our approach to gender equality in Afghanistan. The operational strategy for 2004–05 aimed to mainstream gender into "policy and programmes and targeted interventions". The priorities are:

A: Promoting Security and the Rule of Law;

B: Promoting Women's Civil and Political Rights; the FCO is currently promoting women's access to justice with a £240,000 programme to train Afghan lawyers in human rights advocacy, with a specific focus on women;

C: Protecting Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

A full copy of the Gender Strategy is available in the Library of the House.

Brussels Summit

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which proposals the Government will place on the agenda for the Brussels summit on 16 and 17 June. [4058]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government are not putting forward any specific proposals at the European Council. The Council will discuss, among other things, the Constitutional Treaty, the Community Budget for 2007–2013, enlargement, the action plan to implement the Hague Programme on freedom, security and justice, and the Union's Overseas Development Assistance commitments as we prepare for the UN Summit in September.

China (Religious Policy)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of China's new Provisions on Religious Affairs. [6342]

Ian Pearson: Since the passing of the new regulations on religion in March 2005 there has been little apparent change in the challenges facing religious groups and organisations in China. China's new provisions on religious affairs reaffirm existing restrictions on religious practice. They keep the requirement for all religious groups to register and set out penalties for non-compliance.

We do not expect the new regulations to improve the situation for unregistered religious groups which continue to be put under pressure.

We raised our concerns about religious freedom at the latest round of the UK/China Human Rights Dialogue, held in London on 6 June.

Embassy Staff Levels

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff are based at each UK embassy. [6367]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a network of 233 diplomatic posts worldwide: 153 embassies and high commissions: 10 missions to international organisations such as the UN, the EU and NATO; and a further 70 consulates and deputy missions outside the capital cities in some countries. In addition there are 38 posts staffed entirely by local staff; 229 honorary consuls; and resident governors in nine of the 14 UK overseas territories.

Our embassies, missions and consulates are staffed by a mixture of FCO UK based staff, locally recruited staff and officers from other UK Government Departments.

There are approximately 6000 FCO UK based staff of whom about 2800 are based at our overseas posts at any one time. Overseas posts collectively employ about 10,000 locally engaged staff.

Figures are not held centrally on the total number of staff at each individual mission. This information could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Hezbollah

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the UK has to recognise Hezbollah. [5128]

Dr. Howells: The UK has no plans to recognise Hezbollah. The UK only recognises states, not non-state actors.

Hezbollah is a political, social, religious and self-styled national resistance movement. The UK proscribed part of Hezbollah, the External Security Organisation, as a terrorist organisation in February 2001 under the Terrorism Act 2000. In this context we keep the behaviour of Hezbollah, and its status, under constant review.

In December 2001 our embassy in Beirut initiated contacts with Hezbollah, with ministerial approval. Since then there has been irregular contact. The last such contact with Hezbollah was in February 2005. In discussions with Hezbollah, British officials made clear the Government's well-known opposition to terrorism and the importance of Hezbollah's ending attacks on Israel and reducing tension along the Blue Line. No further such meetings are planned.

Hong Kong

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Minister last visited Hong Kong; and when he expects the next visit by a Minister. [6331]

Ian Pearson: My hon. Friend the former Minister of State for Higher Education (Dr. Howells) visited in February this year, the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Bill Rammell) visited in October 2004 and my right. hon. and noble Friend the Minister of State for Home Affairs (Baroness Scotland of Asthal) visited in December.

I will be visiting Hong Kong and mainland China in early July. A number of Ministers will be attending the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial in Hong Kong later this year.

My hon. Friend may also be interested to know that Donald Tsang, visited the UK in October 2004 in his capacity as the then Chief Secretary and met my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Lord Chancellor.

José Bustani

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on *(a)* the UK's support for the dismissal of José Bustani as director general of the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons in 2002 and *(b)* the International Labour Organisation judgment on 26 July 2003 relating to Mr. Bustani's dismissal. [5917]

Dr. Howells: In a vote of no confidence at the March 2002 Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons Executive Council, a significant proportion of the Council showed they had lost confidence in Mr. Bustani in his role as director general. Only five of the council's 41 members voted in support of Mr. Bustani. As Mr. Bustani did not resign following this vote, a special conference of states party was held in April 2002 and a subsequent vote supported the earlier results. Mr. Bustani's appointment was accordingly terminated. It was our view that Mr. Bustani should be replaced by someone who enjoyed the full confidence of all the states party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Our policy throughout was guided by our judgment of what was in the best interests of the OPCW and the CWC.

Mr. Bustani pursued a compensation claim against the OPCW before the International Labour Organisation Administrative Tribunal. The judgment reached by the Tribunal in July 2003 awarded Mr. Bustani damages, including payment for loss of earnings. The OPCW subsequently appealed against the award for loss of earnings and the damages were later reduced. The OPCW duly paid Mr. Bustani the reduced damages in accordance with its legal obligation to do so.

Sri Lanka (Tamil Separatists)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Sri Lanka, with particular reference to the Tamil separatists. [6033]

Dr. Howells: We are encouraged that the three-year-old ceasefire between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) remains in place. It is essential that it continues to do so and that both sides desist from activities which could put it in danger. In this context we fully endorse the recent statement by the Tokyo Conference of Co-chairs expressing concern that respect for the ceasefire is being undermined by persistent violence producing a climate of impunity. We call upon the LTTE to end their assassinations and stop their recruitment and use of child soldiers. We also call upon the Government of Sri Lanka to take decisive action to ensure that killings are stopped and paramilitaries are disarmed immediately as required by the ceasefire agreement.

The Government are concerned that there have been no direct peace talks since April 2003. We work closely with international partners to encourage all parties to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible. The tragedy of the 26 December 2004 tsunami represented an opportunity for all communities in Sri Lanka to work together. The putting in place of a post-tsunami aid coordination mechanism for the North and East should provide a framework for more effective tsunami assistance and help build confidence between the two sides. We welcome the determination shown by the President to achieve the enactment of such a joint mechanism and encourage all sides to implement it rapidly and effectively.

UN Disengagement Observer Force

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the United Nations Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Middle East. [5689]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports the UN Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for a further six months until 31 December 2005. If agreed by the Security Council, we look forward to the Secretary-General's report on developments at the end of that period.

UN Resolution 1559

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the implementation of resolution 1559 of the United Nations Security Council. [5692]

Dr. Howells: Our assessment of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 does not differ from the UN secretary-general's in his first six-monthly report on the implementation of UNSCR 1559 (UN document S/2005/272), which was issued on 26 April 2005.

With our partners in the international community, the UK will work towards full implementation of UNSCR 1559.

Visas

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the issuing of visas to overseas doctors; and if he will make a statement. [6240]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any recent representations on the issuing of visas to overseas doctors and neither has my noble Friend the Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) responsible for entry clearance overseas.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long a person who has been granted a two-year visitors' visa has to stay out of the country after making a first visit of six months' duration before he or she may return for a second visit. [6206]

Dr. Howells: There is no minimum period for a person issued with a two-year multiple entry visa to be out of the UK after a six-month visit, before being allowed to re-enter. Re-entering the UK would be subject to the immigration officer at the port of entry being satisfied that each of the visa requirements is met by the visitor. This includes showing that the visitor is genuinely seeking entry as a visitor for a limited period not exceeding six months and that he/she intends to leave the UK at the end of this visit as stated by him/her.

World War Two Medals

Mr. Benton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 24 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 1355W, on world war two medals, whether he has made a decision on the possibility of an exception to the rules governing the acceptance and wearing of foreign awards to enable British veterans who served on Arctic Convoys during the second world war to receive the Russian Defence of the Soviet Arctic Region medal. [6301]

Mr. Straw: No final decision was taken on this matter because, in December 2004, the Russian authorities made known that they were no longer considering conferring the medal for the Defence of the Soviet Arctic Region on foreign war veterans.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Court Fines

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much revenue has been paid to the Exchequer from court fines in England in each year since 1995. [5973]

Ms Harman: The table shows the total amount of fine receipts collected between 1994–95 and 2004–05.

Traditionally all receipts from court fines have been returned to the consolidated fund and re-allocated through the spending review process. However since 2002–03 DCA has piloted a scheme aimed at increasing recovery rates of fines, in order to increase the effectiveness of the punishment as a deterrent. As part of this scheme my Department (DCA) retain a proportion of the fine income to finance enforcement costs. The DCA departmental expenditure limit is adjusted to take account of this new arrangement.

Fine receipts paid to consolidated fund in the financial year

£ million

	Total fine receipts	*Amount paid to HM Treasury consolidated fund*	*Amount retained by DCA for enforcement costs*
1994–95	147.6	147.6	—
1995–96	150.4	150.4	—
1996–97	144.3	144.3	—
1997–98	152.1	152.1	—
1998–99	153.5	153.5	—
1999–2000	145.0	145.0	—
2000–01	130.9	130.9	—
2001–02	124.6	124.6	—
2002–03	120.3	76.6	43.7
2003–04	133.3	73.7	59.6
2004–05	142.4	79.0	63.4
Total	1,544.3	1,377.6	166.7

Notes:
1. The figures given are for fine receipts in England and Wales.
2. Figures are not separately collated for England.

Marked Registers

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much is charged per page by local councils for the marked electoral register after local elections; how much is proposed to be charged by Pickfords for the general election marked register; and if she will make a statement. [6472]

Ms Harman: The fees and charges for the inspection and provision of copies of the marked register for local elections are at the discretion of the local authority, responsible for retaining the document.

The fees structure for purchasing copies of the marked electoral registers for the 2005 general election, have been set by the Clerk of the Crown, with agreement by HM Treasury, as required under rule 57(3) of schedule 1, the Representation of the People Act 1983.

They stand at 35p per copied page of A4; an £8 handling charge: and, postage and packaging at cost.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the photocopying rate per page to be charged by Pickfords for the marked electoral register. [6473]

Ms Harman: Charges for obtaining copies of the marked registers are set by the Clerk of the Crown, with agreement from HM Treasury, as required under rule 57(3) of schedule 1, the Representation of the People Act 1983. Charges are set on the basis of cost covering, and not on a profit making basis. The charges for the 2005 general election have, in fact, not increased from those at the previous general election in 2001.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs for what reasons marked electoral registers are not retained by local councils following a general election. [6474]

Ms Harman: The marked registers have traditionally been stored centrally, with other election documentation that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is required to retain for a period of one year after a general election.

The Government have agreed with the Electoral Commission's proposal in its report, "Voting for change", that in future, all documentation produced at a general election, including marked registers, should be stored by local authorities in England and Wales. The Government will legislate to provide for this at the earliest opportunity.

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her policy is on using National Insurance numbers in voter registration. [5927]

Ms Harman: The Government currently has no plans to use National Insurance numbers in voter registration outside of Northern Ireland. This is in line with recommendations made by the Electoral Commission and the joint Office of the Deputy Prime Minster/ Constitutional Affairs Select Committee.

Parliamentary Boundary Changes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to publicise parliamentary boundary changes in Gloucestershire. [6339]

Ms Harman: The final report of the Boundary Commission in relation to parliamentary boundaries in England has not yet been published. It will be laid before Parliament as soon as practicable after it has been submitted to the Secretary of State.

Postal Voting

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will estimate the cost to public funds of all-postal pilots election in each year since their introduction. [3614]

Ms Harman: The all-postal pilots in June 2004 were held in combined European parliamentary and local elections across four English regions, the East Midlands, North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber. The Government do not yet have firm estimates for the cost of all-postal voting in those elections as some accounts are outstanding from local authorities.

The other all-postal pilots since 2000 in local elections were funded by local authorities, not by central Government. I do not have figures for those costs. The Electoral Commission requested information on costs from local authorities as part of its evaluation of the pilots.

TREASURY

Child Trust Funds

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department plans to take to encourage parents to invest their Child Trust Fund vouchers immediately. [5854]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 385W.

Contraband

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he is taking to prevent the *(a)* smuggling into the UK and *(b)* sale of contraband (i) tobacco products and (ii) alcohol; and if he will make a statement. [6489]

John Healey: In 1997 this Government cancelled a previously planned reduction of 300 Customs staff. In 2000 we launched the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling (TTS) strategy which provided HM Revenue and Customs with an extra £209 million to fund almost 1,000 additional officers and a national fleet of x-ray scanners. In 2001, as part of TTS, we introduced Fiscal Marks for tobacco to prevent the sale of smuggled products.

This strategy has been successful in first halting the previous rapid growth in cigarette smuggling and then reducing the market share for illicit cigarettes to its current level of an estimated 15 per cent. In the past four years more than nine billion cigarettes have been seized and over 259 gangs involved in large scale smuggling broken up. Furthermore, the total number of cigarettes successfully smuggled into the UK each year has been reduced by over five billion sticks, which represents a reduction of over one third.

At Budget 2005 the Government confirmed the strategic approach it is taking to tackle spirits fraud—through the introduction of regulatory change, including duty stamps for spirits, enhancing operational activity and working closely with the UK industry—aimed at reducing spirits fraud by half by 2008.

Counterfeit Medicines

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what actions Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue are taking to tackle the importation of counterfeit medicines; and if he will make a statement; [5675]

(2) which Government agencies are responsible for tackling the importation of counterfeit medicines; and if he will make a statement. [5681]

Dawn Primarolo: Responsibility for tackling the importation of counterfeit medicines lies with HM Revenue and Customs using their powers to take enforcement action against goods that breach the import and export prohibitions on counterfeit, pirated or patent infringing intellectual property rights as set out in EC Council Regulation 1383/2003. HMRC has publicised these procedures in Public Notice No. 34 'Intellectual Property Rights', which can be viewed at www.hmrc.gov.uk/Forms leaflets and booklets.

HMRC targets counterfeit goods at importation using profiles set on its central systems in response to information received from those right holders who have submitted an application to have their rights protected at importation. HMRC detains any suspect consignments and provides the right holder with information that has been declared to HMRC, including details of the goods,

importer and manufacturer. HMRC will seize any goods where the right holder confirms in a witness statement that the goods are counterfeit.

Where HMRC detects a consignment of medicines that they suspect is counterfeit, and there is no application from a right holder in place, HMRC will detain the goods and invite the right holder to lodge an application. If the right holder does so within three working days and subsequently confirms in a witness statement that the goods are counterfeit, HMRC will seize the goods.

In May 2005 officials from HMRC and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency met representatives from the pharmaceutical industry to explain the role of HMRC and agree steps that aim to improve the flow of information to HMRC and thereby enhance the targeting of suspect consignments of counterfeit medicines.

HMRC also publicises its role through bodies such as the Anti-counterfeiting Group, at which officials offer advice concerning frontier protection of intellectual property rights to businesses whether they are registered right holders or not.

HMRC are in discussion with the Patent Office and other enforcement agencies as part of the development of the UK's National Intellectual Property Crime Strategy. This strategy is designed to improve consumer awareness of the dangers of counterfeit goods, disseminate information of specific cases against known offenders and ensure a unified approach across Departments.

Customs Officers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress is being made in recruiting additional customs officers. [6479]

Dawn Primarolo: The Chancellor announced in his pre-Budget statement in December 2004 an additional £5 million for the financial year 2005–06 and an additional £15 million for the financial year 2006–07 to fund additional resources for national security at the frontier.

HMRC is currently contributing to this commitment through the redeployment of staff released through the staff efficiencies it is generating.

It is not departmental practice to discuss levels of resourcing and deployment in this activity at individual locations as such information has security considerations

Governmental Pension Payments

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government departments pay *(a)* annuities and *(b)* pensions from public funds to descendants of individuals who were granted exceptional perpetual annuity or pension payments due to their exceptional public service. [6209]

Mr. Des Browne: The Treasury is not aware of any such payments being made by Government Departments.

Government Spending

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage share of total Government spending devoted to *(a)* social security, *(b)* health and *(c)* education has been in each year since 1995 calculated on a consistent basis. [6115]

Mr. Des Browne: A consistent series of public spending on social protection, health and education from 1987–88 to 2004–05, the latest year available, is shown in table 3.2 of "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2005" (CM6521). Total Expenditure on Services (TES), a measure of total public spending on which the functional analyses are based, is also shown in table 3.2.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5109]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him today by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Iraq

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated total cost to date is of UK operations and assistance in Iraq, broken down by month; and if he will make a statement. [6049]

Mr. Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 21 June.

Matched Funding

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Treasury rules are for the provision of matched funding for projects part funded by the European Union; and what the value of matched funding was for *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each nation of the UK in each year since 2001. [6383]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* The rules for the provision of match funding for projects part funded by the European Union are set out on the DTI website at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/europe/mf2.htm. The total UK match funding allocations for 2001–04 are set out as follows:

United Kingdom structural funds allocations 2001 to 2004 (in €000 at 1999 figures)

	Total match funding (National and Private)			
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
England	2,389,340	2,404,085	2,383,537	2,181,623
Scotland	441,178	417,787	394,786	356,354
Wales	391,883	365,954	357,706	344,483
Northern Ireland	96,086	96,401	94,372	99,630
Total	3,318,487	3,284,227	3,230,401	2,982,090

National Insurance Fraud

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated levels of national insurance fraud are in the UK. [6059]

Dawn Primarolo: There is currently no reliable estimate of the level of national insurance fraud.

Tax Avoidance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the amount of tax avoided by UK citizens through tax havens with connections to the UK. [5840]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no reliable estimate of the amount of UK tax avoided or evaded by the use of tax havens.

Tax avoidance and evasion damage the global economy. The UK is taking action both domestically and in co-operation with our international partners to counter avoidance schemes and protect UK tax revenues. In this regard, the UK has welcomed the commitments made by 35 jurisdictions (including UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories) to the OECD principles of transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes as part of the global initiative on harmful tax practices.

Tax Credits

Ms Barlow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in the constituency of Hove have received *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit since it was introduced; how many are receiving it; how many have received overpayments; what the average (i) amount and (ii) duration of the overpayment was; how many are repaying overpayments; how many have received lower payments than they were entitled to; and what the normal procedure is to correct that. [6488]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the number of in-work families (broken down by families with and without children) in each region, local authority and constituency with tax credits for 2003–04 awards, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04, appear in the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Geographical analyses". More recent "provisional" estimates for in-work families, as at selected dates in 2004–05, in each such area appear in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Geographical Statistics."

Estimates of the number of overpaid and underpaid awards, including average overpayments, at 5 April 2005 after finalisation for each such area appear in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Payments Geographical analyses." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. All these publications can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Information on the average duration of overpayments is not available. Information on the numbers of families repaying overpayments in Hove is also unavailable. Details of how overpayments are recovered are provided in the Department's Code of Practice 26 " What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit."

HMRC's procedure for correcting underpayments is to make a lump sum payment, as was done for all 2003–04 underpayment.

Voter Registration

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentages of residents are registered to vote in each local authority area. [5980]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Tony Wright, dated 22 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the percentage of residents who are registered to vote in each Local Authority area. (5980)

The percentage of residents who are registered to vote in each local authority area is not a reliable estimate of the registration rate of the eligible population: the resident population aged 18 and over is not the same as the number of people eligible to vote. However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) does on occasion publish comparisons of the resident population of voting age (aged 18 and over) and the number of people who are registered to vote.

I am placing in the House of Commons Library a table which gives a comparison between the number of registered electors and the estimated mid-2003 population for local authorities in England and Wales. Data are given for both parliamentary electorate and local/European electorate. In order to give an estimate of the number of electors at the mid-year point, 30 June 2003, a weighted average is taken of the 1 December 2002 and 1 December 2003 electoral data.

The local/European electorate gives a better comparison than parliamentary electorate to resident population as EU citizens are included and UK citizens resident abroad are excluded from the local/European electorate. However, a number of other difficulties remain when comparing these sources. For example not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote (foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth, prisoners, etc. are not eligible) and people who have more than one address may register in more than one place. In addition there is inevitably some double counting of the registered electorate as electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or after they have died. This latter is the main reason some areas show apparent rates in excess of one hundred per cent. These factors may have a different impact from place to place.

Any comparison of these data with figures for previous years should be made carefully as electoral legislation and other changes (such as EU expansion) can change the size of the electorate.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency (Catchment Areas)

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average catchment area of an accident and emergency unit is in terms of *(a)* population and *(b)* travel time. [4000]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected.

Actrapid Insulin

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has assessed on the effect on diabetic patients of changing their insulin regimes from actrapid or basal to other types. [5674]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There has been no research to assess the effects on diabetic patients of changing their insulin regimes from the NovoNordisk product Actrapid or other basal types. All patients will be assessed individually by their clinician and prescribed an appropriate alternative. They will be trained in how to use/manage the new insulin and monitored closely over the short and long-term.

Air Pollution

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the findings were of the research the Department have conducted on the links between air pollution and health. [5844]

Caroline Flint: The findings of the Department's first two air pollution research programmes are published in "Joint Research Programmes on Outdoor and Indoor Air Pollution: A Review of Progress 1999", which is available on the Medical Research Council Institute for Environment and Health's website at http://www.le.ac.uk/ieh/pdf/sr4.pdf

A third research programme started in 2002 and is still ongoing. The projects selected for funding are listed on the Department's air pollution website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/07/06/08/04070608.pdf

Alliance Medical Ltd.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average cost of a scan conducted by Alliance Medical Ltd. on behalf of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust during the five-year life of the contract; what methodology was used to calculate the average cost; and if she will make a statement. [2030]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* The average cost of a scan conducted by Alliance Medical Ltd. is a matter of commercial confidentiality and cannot be disclosed without prejudicing the commercial interests of the company. The contract was secured at excellent value being approximately half the national health service equivalent cost for the total patient episode.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which countries Alliance Medical send scan results produced under its NHS contract to be assessed. [2251]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* Scans are sent to qualified radiologists in Scotland, Belgium, South Africa and Spain.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average amount of time is that a patient has waited for the results of a scan undertaken by Alliance Medical. [2254]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* The information is not collected centrally. However, the average reporting time for a scan is between four and seven and a half working days, that is, not weekends, bank holidays etc. The national health service timetable will determine when the results are given to the patient.

Ambulances (Equipment)

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy is on what equipment should be provided in ambulances. [4405]

Mr. Byrne: The Department expects ambulances to be appropriately equipped to deliver care, in accordance with national clinical guidelines, to the patients they see. It is for each national health service ambulance trust to determine how this is done. Regional variations in service provision and type of vehicle, for example, weight allowance, are all factors, which trusts take into account. The British Standards Institute has a recommended list of equipment to be carried, which trusts can use and add to as appropriate.

For emergency preparedness, every front line emergency ambulance is equipped to deal with a major incident, having on board and being familiar with their local major emergency plan and action cards. All have the correct level of personal protective equipment to allow them to work in a major incident environment. In the event of a major incident, every trust has emergency equipment vehicles carrying the extra medical supplies required for a large-scale incident and a mobile control unit, plus sufficient ambulance officers to manage the incident.

Audit Systems

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems of audit are used to check information provided by general practitioners to strategic health authorities and primary care trusts in terms of dealing with targets. [3728]

Mr. Byrne: Audit of general practitioner information is a matter for primary care trusts and specifically their chief executives as accountable officers.

Autism

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research projects into the causes of autism have been *(a)* supported and *(b)* funded by the Government since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [3075]

Mr. Byrne: The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

The MRC invested some £8 million in autism research in the seven years from 1997–98 to 2003–04. This total includes an allocation of £2.5 million made by the Department in 2002.

Details of the projects funded in that period and more recently are shown in the table.

MRC: currently funded autism projects

Grant holder	*University/ institute*	*Project title*	*Award (£000)*
Dr. K. Plaisted	Cambridge	An investigation of the mechanisms underlying the deficits in contextual processing in autism	222
Dr. F. Happe	Institute of Psychiatry, London	Local-global processing and cognitive style in autism and normal development; cognitive and brain bases	246
Professor A. Bailey	Institute of Psychiatry, London	A morphometric study of the Neuropathology of Autism	138
Professor M. H. Johnson	Birkbeck College	Functional brain development in human infants: perceiving the social and physical world	1,703
Professor P. Jacobs	Southampton	The effect of additional copies of chromosome 15q11-q13 with special reference to the autistic spectrum disorders	586
Professor S. Baron-Cohen	Cambridge	The development of social intelligence in children with and without high functioning autism: cognitive and fMRI investigation	770
Professor U. Frith	University College, London	Autism and social cognition	508
Dr. K. Nation	University of Oxford	Vocal and non-vocal communication in autism	151
Dr. T. Charman	Institute of Child Health, London	Characterising the cognitive phenotype of autism spectrum disorders	381
Professor D. Murphy	Institute of Psychiatry, London	Brain anatomy in autism; a multi-centre study	700
Professor J. Golding	University of Bristol	The aetiology of traits contributing to autism and the autistic spectrum disorders	408
D. Bowler	City University, London	Integration of complex spatial and temporal elements of episodic memory in adults with Asperger's syndrome	190
J. Green	Manchester	Pre-school Autism Communication trial (PACT)	1,320
Completed projects[1]			
Professor U. Frith	University College, London	Cognitive deficits in developmental disorders	1,292
Professor P. Jacobs	Cambridge	The effects of duplications and triplications of chromosome 15qll-ql3 with special reference to autism	595
Professor A. Bailey	Institute of Psychiatry, London	Collaborative molecular genetic study of autism	967
Professor A. Bailey	Oxford	Collaborative molecular genetic study of autism (Oxford Centre)	708
Professor A. Hall	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	A case control study of autism in general practice	364

[1] The most recently completed

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects, including a number concerned with the causes of autism, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what advice she has given to the Department for Education and Skills regarding the training needs for those working with people with autistic spectrum disorders; [4415]

(2) what advice has been given to local authorities on the appropriateness of *(a)* learning disability teams and *(b)* mental health teams taking the lead responsibility for people with autism; [4430]

(3) if she will issue advice to local authorities regarding the desirability of having a named senior manager with responsibility for autism for both children and adults. [4421]

Mr. Byrne: "Valuing People, A New Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities" (2001) recognises that many people with severe and profound learning disabilities have autistic behaviours, even if not formally recognised. It is important that all services for people with learning disabilities have the skills to recognise and make adequate provision locally for them although the majority will not need autism specific services.

Adults with disabilities, including those with autism, are covered by the mental health national service framework in respect of their mental health problems.

Addressing the training needs of those working with people with autistic spectrum disorders is the responsibility of the appropriate regulatory bodies. They set standards for the pre-registration training of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, approve the education institutions that provide the training and determine the curricula. Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

There are no plans to issue advice to local authorities regarding the desirability of having a named senior manager with responsibility for autism for both children and adults. It is for local authorities and health service providers to determine how best to provide services to meet the needs of the individuals.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the prevalence of autistic spectrum disorders among the black and minority ethnic population; and if she will make a statement; [4418]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of adults with autistic spectrum disorders in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* England; [4419]

(3) what estimate she has made of how many adults have undiagnosed autistic spectrum disorders; and what action is being taken to ensure that individuals receive a correct diagnosis and appropriate support. [4420]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among the black and minority ethnic population is not collected centrally. The Medical Research Council's (MRC), "Review of Autism Research" (2001) states that it is unclear whether people of particular racial origins are more at risk for ASDs.

The number of adults with ASDs living in Staffordshire is not available. The MRC report estimates that there are approximately 60 per 10,000 children under eight years old with ASDs in England. The prevalence in autism in the adult population is not known, nor are there estimates of how many adults have undiagnosed ASDs.

It is the responsibility of all health and social care agencies to ensure that their staff are appropriately trained to make sure that individuals with ASDs receive a correct diagnosis and appropriate support.

Blind/Partially Sighted (Rehabilitation)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what rehabilitation help is available for blind and partially sighted people; how many trained staff there are who can provide that help in health trusts and local authorities; and what advice is she seeking to increase appropriate training and numbers; [4517]

(2) what action she plans to take to ensure that each health trust and local authority has an adequate number of trained people to deliver rehabilitation help to blind and partially sighted people in accordance with the Government's Fair Access to Care Services and if she will estimate the additional funding required in order to meet that target. [4518]

Mr. Byrne: Rehabilitation services for blind and partially sighted people are predominantly provided by local authorities and to some extent NHS trusts. It is for those organisations to commission appropriate services based on local need. This would include the number, training and composition of teams available to provide rehabilitation for blind and partially sighted people, based on local need.

Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) is a system to help local authorities to set eligibility criteria for provision of services. It is up to local authorities and health trusts to ensure they have an adequate number of trained people to deliver rehabilitation services to the blind and partially sighted people in their area.

Breast Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the cost of extending the routine NHS breast screening programme to *(a)* women aged between 70 and 75 years of age, *(b)* all women above 70 years of age, *(c)* women aged between 45 and 49 and *(d)* women aged between 40 and 49. [5593]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Expanding the national health service breast-screening programme to include women aged 65 to 70 was supported by investment of £11.5 million, with an additional £11.4 million for new equipment. No assessment has been made on the cost of expanding the service to include women aged 70 to 75; however, we would expect it to be in a similar range. No assessment has been made on the cost of expanding the programme to include all women aged 70 or over. All women over 70 can request free three yearly breast screening.

Research is ongoing into screening women aged 40–49, entitled "UKCCCR randomised controlled trial of the effect of breast cancer mortality of annual mammographic screening of women starting at age 40". This study is due to report in late 2005, at the earliest, and will address the issues of cost and cost effectiveness.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the rate of implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guideline published on 23 June 2004 on The Classification and Care of Women at risk of Familial Breast Cancer in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Care, with particular reference to screening for women aged between 40 and 49; and what plans she has to extend the NHS breast screening programme to all women aged between 40 and 49. [5594]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Clinical guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) are reflected in the standards published by the Department, which provide a framework for continuous improvement in the overall quality of care people receive. Clinical guidelines are covered by the developmental standards, standards which the national health service is expected to achieve over time. The Healthcare Commission has responsibility for assessing progress towards achieving these standards.

Clinicians are expected to take full account of NICE guidelines because they are based on the best available evidence and have been put together after wide consultation, drawing on the views of patients and carers as well as the experts in the field.

Research is currently ongoing into extending the NHS breast screening programme to include women aged 40–49, entitled "UKCCR randomised controlled trial of the effect of breast cancer mortality of annual mammographic screening of women starting at age 40".

The main aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of annual mammographic screening of women starting at ages 40 to 41 on mortality from breast cancer, thus giving a definitive answer to the outstanding question of whether population screening below 50 is beneficial or not. Full results are expected in late 2005 at the earliest.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to encourage greater choice on *(a)* when, *(b)* where and *(c)* how women can access the NHS breast screening programme. [5822]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 20 June 2005]*: Choice is already an important part of the national health service breast screening programme. All invitations to be screened for breast cancer include leaflets on the benefits and limits of screening, allowing the woman to make an informed choice about whether to be screened or not. The invitation letter also includes details on how the screening appointment can be

changed to a more convenient date and time. On average 30 per cent. of women rearrange their appointments each year.

It is important to note that the amount of choice that the programme can offer is limited by the logistics involved in a screening programme that sees, on average, 1.4 million women each year. However, we are looking at how greater choice can be given. We are exploring, in London, the use of a central call centre, which will be closely followed and evaluated for implementation elsewhere in the country.

Clostridium Difficile

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients *(a)* have died from and *(b)* been infected by *Clostridium difficile* since 2003. [3903]

Jane Kennedy: The only routinely available mortality statistics on *Clostridium difficile* are those associated with enterocolitis, the most common illness caused by *Clostridium difficile* infection. The figures for 2003 are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Number of deaths where enterocolitis due to Clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate and the number of these mentions where it was also the underlying cause of death,[1] England and Wales, 2003

	Number
Total mentions	1,748
Underlying cause	934

[1] Selected using the code A04.7 from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Complete information on the number of patients with *Clostridium difficile* infections in the last five years are not available but reports made under the Health Protection Agency's voluntary reporting scheme are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Voluntary reports of Clostridium difficile infections diagnosed from faecal specimens for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

	Number
2003	[1]35,537
2004	[1]43,672

[1] Provisional data.

Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Dementia

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local authorities provide adult placement services for people with early onset dementia. [5104]

Mr. Byrne: I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that this information is not held centrally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance the Government provides for *(a)* those with senile dementia and *(b)* their families. [5391]

Mr. Byrne: Standard seven of the national service framework for older people, launched in March 2001, describes the services that we expect local health and social services organisations to provide for those with dementia, and their carers.

The Government introduced the carers grant in 1999 for councils to provide support to carers in England through breaks and other services. The grant has increased each year and has provided an extra £450 million over the past six years. It is worth £185 million in 2005–06. In the last local Government finance settlement, we confirmed our commitment to continue the carers grant until at least the end of the 2007–08 financial year.

Guidance called "Developing Services for Carers and Families of People with Mental Illness", for the development of services for supporting carers of people with mental health problems, was launched by the then Minister for Community, Ms Jacqui Smith, in November 2002.

Dentistry

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of dental treatment was for *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in each London health authority in each year since 1997. [5280]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Average gross fees for dental treatments provided for each of the strategic health authority areas in London in each financial year

£

Financial year ending	Average adult gross fees for courses of dental treatment	Average child gross fees for courses of dental treatment
1997		
North West London	51.32	46.42
North Central London	51.06	48.38
North East London	50.74	46.06
South East London	48.87	38.58
South West London	44.85	40.58
1998		
North West London	49.14	35.03
North Central London	48.99	42.65
North East London	49.02	38.10
South East London	46.35	33.87
South West London	41.65	32.14
1999		
North West London	50.91	38.56
North Central London	50.21	46.18
North East London	51.14	40.88
South East London	47.91	37.06
South West London	42.65	33.54
2000		
North West London	53.14	41.45
North Central London	53.07	50.34
North East London	54.73	41.95
South East London	50.67	40.19
South West London	44.56	34.53
2001		
North West London	54.40	46.99
North Central London	54.65	56.77
North East London	57.07	46.38
South East London	51.59	39.75
South West London	45.66	39.86
2002		
North West London	56.21	51.83

Average gross fees for dental treatments provided for each of the strategic health authority areas in London in each financial year

£

Financial year ending	Average adult gross fees for courses of dental treatment	Average child gross fees for courses of dental treatment
North Central London	57.01	59.83
North East London	58.62	47.16
South East London	53.50	40.65
South West London	47.06	42.98
2003		
North West London	58.82	52.74
North Central London	58.27	62.95
North East London	61.41	49.10
South East London	55.75	41.55
South West London	48.02	45.67
2004		
North West London	59.05	54.43
North Central London	58.13	66.58
North East London	62.74	56.33
South East London	55.87	45.39
South West London	48.35	50.71
2005		
North West London	59.61	58.34
North Central London	58.70	68.41
North East London	63 68	60.35
South East London	56.95	45.90
South West London	49.15	55.53

NHS Dentistry

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total funding provided for NHS dentistry has been in each year since 1997 in *(a)* real and *(b)* nominal terms. [3355]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The principal element of dental services are primary care services provided mainly through the general dental service (GDS) supplemented, since 1998, by personal dental service (PDS) pilots. The GDS is currently managed on a national basis as a non-discretionary service. Expenditure is not pre-determined by funding allocations but is driven largely by the volume of NHS care provided to patients by dentists. Gross expenditure on GDS and PDS services, including the funding contribution from patient charges, is shown in the table.

Data for 1997–98 and 1998–99 is based on cash data, whereas data for all subsequent years is based on resource data. Accounts data for 2004–05 is not yet available.

Gross expenditure on GDS and PDS—England

£ million

	At 2003–04 prices based on March 2005 gross domestic product deflator	Actual spend
1997–98	1,564	1,348
1998–99	1,627	1,442
1999–2000	1,675	1,517
2000–01	1,748	1,602
2001–02	1,782	1,674
2002–03	1,795	1,745
2003–04	1,811	1,811

Source:
Appropriation accounts 1997–98 and 1998–99.
Audited accounts for the GDS.
Audited summarisation forms of the health authorities 1999–2000 to 2001–02.
Audited summarisation forms of the strategic health authorities 2002–03 and 2003–04.
Audited summarisation schedules of primary care trusts 2000–2001 to 2003–04.

Funding for secondary care and community dental services is determined locally by primary care and service trusts.

Departmental Staff

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered *(a)* nutritionists and *(b)* dieticians she employs within her Department. [5297]

Caroline Flint: The Department directly employs one nutritionist. However, the Department has regular contact with and seeks advice from dieticians and nutritionists from the British Dietetic Association, the Nutrition Society and other relevant professional organisations.

Doctors

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors have been *(a)* assessed and *(b)* entered on the specialist register by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board, broken down by region; and how many doctors have received additional training to satisfy the board's requirements for a particular register. [6260]

Mr. Byrne: None. The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board does not take up its statutory responsibility for these functions until 30 September 2005.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors are employed in non-standard or trust grade posts in each NHS trust in England. [1605]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of doctors employed in non-standard or trust grade posts submitted by national health service trusts in the September 2004 NHS work force census has been placed in the Library.

Domiciliary Care

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities in England disregard housing costs and council tax when calculating charges for domiciliary care. [5644]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally.

Drug Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug rehabilitation places are available for residents of Hemel Hempstead constituency. [5255]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of drug rehabilitation places in Hemel Hempstead is not held centrally.

Efficiency Map

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what cost the Department's Efficiency Map, published on 13 May, was produced; for how long she

expects the document to remain in draft form for discussion; and what improvements in efficiency she expects to result from its publication. [3350]

Mr. Byrne: The efficiency map was published by the Department of Health at the total cost of £4,861 and is part of the communications strategy for our programme to deliver £3.8 billion worth of efficiency gains by 2007–08.

Elder Abuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data on the *(a)* nature and *(b)* volume of elder abuse has been collected to date as part of the Modernisation of Adult Social Care Research Initiative. [2911]

Mr. Byrne: As part of the modernisation of adult social care initiative, a three-year study has been commissioned from the University of Hull looking at partnerships and regulation in protection of adults. The aim of the study is to examine the operation of the range of regulatory frameworks relevant to adult protection for all service user groups including older people. It is focusing on the system designed to identify and respond to incidents of abuse and the links between adult protection and criminal justice initiatives.

A mapping exercise will be conducted to identify models of partnership working between different agencies and the extent of different regulatory frameworks. The researchers will also be undertaking interviews with a range of stakeholders including service users and their advocates. The study will be completed in 2006.

Health Expenditure

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per capita from central Government funds on health in *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [3599]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not collected centrally in the format requested.

The following table shows expenditure per weighted head of population in England, and by the strategic health authority, which includes the East Riding of Yorkshire area, for 1999–2000 to 2003–04, which is the latest year for which audited figures are available.

Expenditure per weighted head of population

£ per head

	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire strategic health authority area	*England*
1999–2000	752.94	763.79
2000–01	801.96	825.38
2001–02	869.38	926.13
2002–03	943.10	991.07
2003–04	1,074.31	1,116.32

Sources:

1. Audited summarisation forms of the health authorities 1999–2000 to 2001–02.
2. Audited summarisation forms of the strategic health authorities 2002–03 and 2003–04.
3. Audited summarisation schedules of primary care trusts 2000–01 to 2003–04.
4. Weighted population figures

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to centralise decision making on NHS capital expenditure away from strategic health authorities; and if she will make a statement. [5830]

Mr. Byrne: There are no plans to centralise decision making on national health service capital expenditure. Up to 2005–06 capital expenditure limits have been set by the Department for strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts primarily on a formula basis. From 2006–07, we will introduce a process where organisations put forward investment plans based on what they need and what is affordable. This should increase the extent to which capital expenditure reflects local circumstances. This policy is still being developed, and further details will be set out in the NHS financial strategy to be published in the autumn.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government have spent on improving technology in hospitals since 1997. [5407]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not held centrally.

Health Statistics (Coventry, South)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Coventry, South suffer from *(a)* dementia and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [5170]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* The information is not collected centrally in the requested format. However, data on the numbers of residents in the Coventry city council area with a primary diagnosis of either dementia or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) for 2003–04 are shown in the table.

Diagnosis	*Number of patients*
COPD (J40 to J44)	505
Dementias (F00 to F03)	105

Notes:

1. The data for 2003–04 have not yet been adjusted for shortfalls in data and unknown/invalid clinical data—are ungrossed.
2. Patient counts are based on the unique patient identifier HESID. The identifier is derived based on the patient's date of birth, postcode, sex, local patient identifier and national health service number, using an agreed algorithm. Where data are incomplete, HESID might erroneously link episodes or fail to recognise episodes for the same patient. Care is therefore needed, especially where duplicate records persist in the data.
3. Diagnoses are made using the tenth revision of the international classification of diseases (ICD). J40-J44 and F00-F03 are the relevant diagnostic codes in the ICD-10 for COPD and dementias, respectively.
4. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Source:

HES, NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on plans for the transfer of staff employed at Hemel Hempstead hospital units; [3994]

(2) if she will make a statement on projected bed numbers for Hemel Hempstead Hospital; [3996]

(3) if she will make a statement on plans for property redevelopment at Hemel Hempstead Hospital; [3997]

(4) if she will make a statement on the entry-into-service date of the planned new accident and emergency unit at Watford. [3998]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. The reconfiguration of services in Hertfordshire are part of the wider reconfiguration of services in both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire know as "Investing in Your Health". The strategic outline case for this major reconfiguration of services was approved in July 2004 by my right hon. Friend the then Member for Hamilton, North and Bellshill, now, Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid). The exact details regarding staff transfers, projected bed numbers, the entry into service of the planned new accident and emergency unit in Watford and any plans for property redevelopment at Hemel Hempstead Hospital will not be known in detail until the outline business case is completed, which is likely to be in January 2006.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on plans to modify ambulance stationing patterns in relation to the transfer of Hemel Hempstead Hospital accident and emergency unit. [3999]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently no plans to modify ambulance stationing patterns in relation to the transfer of Hemel Hempstead accident and emergency unit. Hemel Hempstead Hospital will retain its A and E unit, as set out in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authorities' "Investing in Your Health" programme. The A and E unit will still be open, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The only change will be that it will no longer take major trauma cases.

HIV

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency are HIV positive. [5848]

Mr. Byrne: The number of individuals with diagnosed HIV in 2003, the latest year for which data are available, were:

England: 34,689

North East Government Office region: 542

Middlesbrough council and Redcar and Cleveland borough council (equivalent together to Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust and Langbaurgh Primary Care Trust): 64[1]

Estimates of undiagnosed HIV are only available at the national level. The number of adult individuals living with HIV in the United Kingdom in 2003, including those who are undiagnosed, has been estimated as 53,000. Of these, 14,300 of these (27 per cent.) were unaware of their infection.

[1] Data on individuals with diagnosed HIV infection resident in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Data is produced by country, Government Office region, strategic health authority, local authority and primary care trust, but not by parliamentary constituency.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

Hospital Hygiene

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there has been a change in hospital cleanliness rates since the clean-hands policy and the use of alcohol gel was implemented. [3905]

Jane Kennedy: While it is well established that poor hand hygiene practices contribute to the spread of some healthcare associated infections it is too early to determine the effects of the "cleanyourhands" campaign on infection rates and on cleanliness, as it was only launched in September 2004. Research to evaluate implementation of the campaign is under way.

However, at this very early stage in implementation of the "cleanyourhands" campaign, figures show that the usage of alcohol-based hand rubs has increased steadily, with some trusts showing a marked increase of between 100 and 400 per cent. Further evidence from a repeat of previous observational audits on compliance, some two years following the pilot, show compliance in excess of 60 per cent.—a sustained improvement from the average of 28 per cent. reported before the campaign.

The national health service's hard work to improve infection control is shown by the 6 per cent. reduction in meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections for April to September 2004, compared with the same period in 2003.

Medical Practice Accommodation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to ensure that primary care trusts are able to give financial aid to all medical practices in need of approved accommodation; [3142]

(2) if she will take steps to ensure that primary care trusts give priority in funding new accommodation to those medical practices whose lease on their property is approaching its termination; [3143]

(3) what plans she has to increase the level of funding available to primary care trusts to find new properties for medical practices. [3144]

Mr. Byrne: During the period 2003–04 to 2005–06, total funding to primary care trusts (PCTs) will have increased in cash terms by £12.7 billion or almost 31 per cent. Further substantial increases for PCTs will take the funding to £64 billion in 2006–07 and £70 billion in 2007–08. In addition, another £108 million was allocated in 2004–05 and 2005–06 specifically to fund improvements to primary care premises. Further funding of £83 million is to be made available in each year between 2005–06 and 2007–08 for premises growth. The proposed White Paper will consider the provision of

accommodation as part of its review of services outside hospitals following a process of wide public consultation.

It is the responsibility of PCTs to plan, develop and improve services to meet the needs of local people and to decide how available funding should be prioritised.

Mental Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the proposed job savings from the Mental Health Act Commission are under her plans for merger with the Healthcare Commission; [4620]

(2) what the *(a)* status and *(b)* structure of the Mental Health Act Commission will be in the Healthcare Commission. [5497]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The powers to integrate the functions of the Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC) with the Healthcare Commission are contained within the draft Mental Health Bill. The Government are currently considering the Joint Committee on the draft Mental Health Bill's recommendations and will publish a response shortly.

In respect of recommendations pertaining to MHAC, the Government's consideration will take into account the implications of the plans to merge 11 public service inspectorates into four. The new inspectorates will cover justice and community safety, adult social care and health, children's services, education and skills and local services.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will respond to the report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill. [5615]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is currently considering the recommendations of the report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill and a response will be published shortly.

National Society for Epilepsy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sums the Department has allocated to the National Society for Epilepsy in each of the last 10 years; and what the reasons for the payments were in each case. [4813]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State has powers under Section 64 of the Health and Public Services Act 1968 to make grants to voluntary organisations in England whose activities support the Department's policy priorities. Funding allocated to the National Society for Epilepsy through the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants over the last 10 years is shown in the table.

Section 64 grants: National Society for Epilepsy

£

Type of grant/project name	*1996–97*	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*
Section 64 project: Epilepsy information network	—	—	—	90,000	90,000
Section 64 project: living well programme	—	—	—	37,400	—
Section 64 project: computer-aided learning for neurologists	—	10,000	10,000	—	—
Section 64 project	7,292	12,500	5,208	—	—
Section 64 project	23,000	17,000	—	—	—

Note:
Full details of the grants beginning in 1996–97 are not available.

Neonatal Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the nurse to patient ratio is at each neonatal unit in hospital trusts at *(a)* special care level, *(b)* high dependency care level and *(c)* intensive care level; [4468]

(2) how many neonatal units currently comply with British Association of Perinatal Medicine recommended minimum nursing requirements. [4470]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the ratio of nurses to infants within units is not collected centrally, and it is for the units themselves to decide their own nursing requirements. The ratio is not constant, but relative to the dependency levels of the infants. This varies according to demand both within and between units providing a range of special, high dependency and intensive care.

NHS Direct

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the level of user satisfaction with NHS Direct is. [3571]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* I understand from the Chairman of the NHS Direct Special Health Authority that patient satisfaction survey data for March 2005 indicated that 98 per cent. were very satisfied or satisfied with the services provided by NHS Direct.

Nurses

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has carried out to assess the level of risk of back and joint problems in the nursing profession in comparison with that in the general population. [4717]

Mr. Byrne: The Department has not carried out an assessment of the level of risk of back and joint problems within any national health service staff group in comparison with that in the general population.

The Health and Safety Executive have stated that one third of reported injuries that result in three or more days off work are caused by manual handling accidents, and that manual handling accidents and back pain account for approximately 40 per cent. of all NHS sickness absence.

Older People

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all local authorities in England are using the single assessment process for assessing older people's needs, as outlined in the National Service Framework for Older People. [2284]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally. The responsibility for introducing a single assessment process rests with local health and social care service planners, commissioners and providers. However, available evidence suggests that most, if not all, local authorities' social services departments have a single assessment process in place.

PCTs (Resource Allocations)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the forward population projections for *(a)* each strategic health authority and *(b)* each local authority in England were used to inform the resource allocations of primary care trusts for 2006–07 and 2007–08; and if she will estimate the current population of each (i) primary care trust and (ii) strategic health authority area. [3432]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Phthalates

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the potential health impacts arising from the presence of phthalates in consumer goods. [5885]

Caroline Flint: Phthalates are a family of chemical substances, with a range of properties. Extensive research into the effects of certain phthalates on human health has been carried out at a European level, under the auspices of the European Union's Existing Substances Regulation (793/93/EC). Details of this programme can be found on the European Chemicals Bureau website at: http://ecb.jrc.it/existing-chemicals/ The United Kingdom has commented on the detailed risk assessments and ensuing risk reduction strategy for the various phthalates that have been studied.

The Government take the view that phthalates must be considered on a case-by-case basis. Where the EU database is insufficient to complete a risk assessment, it is normally expected that the industry will carry out the required additional research. The detailed EU risk assessments have indicated that some phthalate compounds have been shown in animal studies to produce toxic effects on the reproductive system. Therefore, the Government have asked its expert committee, the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment, to keep the area of environmental chemicals and reproductive health under review and will consider its advice on the need for additional research in this area.

Pressure Sores

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what targets she has set for the reduction of numbers of pressure sores in hospitals; [5543]

(2) what estimate she has made of *(a)* the cost to the NHS of treating pressure sores and *(b)* the number of patients with pressure sores in each of the last three years. [5544]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Reducing the incidence of pressure sores in hospitals is tackled locally through clinical governance; a programme of continuous improvement in clinical care. The toolkit, "Essence of Care—patient focused benchmarks for clinical governance", includes a chapter specific to pressure ulcers.

This is underpinned by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines that also focus on screening and assessment, informing patients and their carers, the development and implementation of an individualised plan for prevention and treatment to be agreed and delivered by a multidisciplinary team working with patients and their carers.

It is not possible to separately identify the costs—in hospitals and all other settings where the national health service cares for patients—of treating pressure sores.

The number of patients who were diagnosed, in NHS hospitals, with pressure sore in the years between 2001–02 and 2003–04 are shown in the table.

	Number
2001–02	15,292
2002–03	17,178
2003–04	18,087

These are NHS hospital in-patients episodes with the specified diagnosis code, not the number of persons diagnosed. It is not possible to identify from these data whether a pressure sore was acquired while the patient was in hospital, or whether it was acquired elsewhere and subsequently diagnosed in a hospital.

Psoriasis/Psoriatic Arthritis

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of the population that suffers from psoriasis. [5985]

Mr. Byrne: We have made no estimate of the proportion of the population with psoriasis. However, the Psoriasis Association estimate that around 2 per cent. of the United Kingdom population suffer from this condition.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to improve the delivery of treatment services to those suffering from psoriatic arthritis. [5982]

Mr. Byrne: It is our intention to publish best practice guidance on musculoskeletal conditions, which includes psoriatic arthritis, later this year. In addition, the Government have already published the national service framework for people with long-term conditions.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what priority is given to psoriatic arthritis in allotting health service resources. [5984]

Mr. Byrne: Responsibility for allocating national health service resources rests with primary care trusts, in

partnership with strategic health authorities and other key stakeholders, as they are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their local populations.

Royal Berkshire Hospital

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make funding available for the employment of a specialist allergy consultant at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. [5386]

Caroline Flint: It is for local primary care trusts to take decisions on funding arrangements for the commissioning of services, including specialist allergy services, to meet the needs of their populations.

Sexual Health

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect that the change in funding for genito-urinary medicine by the West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust will have on sexual health provision in St. Albans. [5102]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure services, including sexual health, are provided which meet the needs of their local populations. I understand that West Hertfordshire Hospital National Heath Service Trust is undertaking a review of sexual health services, but that no final decision has yet been made.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* gonorrhoea, *(b)* syphilis, *(c)* Chlamydia and *(d)* thrush have been diagnosed in the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [3596]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reports of selected sexually transmitted diseases by sex. East Yorkshire primary care trust (PCT): 1999–03[1]

Condition description—condition code	*Sex*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*[2]	*2002*	*2003*
Primary and secondary infectious syphilis—A1A2	Male	<5	<5	n/a	<5	<5
	Female	<5	<5	n/a	<5	<5
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea—B1B2	Male	<5	<5	n/a	11	<5
	Female	<5	<5	n/a	7	<5
Uncomplicated Chlamydia infection—C4AC4C	Male	14	15	n/a	49	49
	Female	21	15	n/a	49	54
Anogenital candidosis—C7A	Male	<5	5	n/a	<5	<5
	Female	19	32	n/a	37	29

[1] Source KC60 returns.
[2] Data for 2001 incomplete.
Notes:
1. < = less than or equal to.
2. The data refers to the number of diagnoses made at genitor-urinary medicine services within the PCT.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of sickness absence in the NHS for *(a)* medical staff, *(b)* non-medical clinical staff and *(c)* all other staff was in each year since 1997. [5561]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not collect information on sickness absence rates in the national health service broken down by staff groups as requested. Information on rates of sickness absence for all staff groups is shown in the table.

Sickness absence rates in the NHS in England

	Percentage rate
2000	4.7
2001	4.8
2002	4.6
2003	4.7
2004	4.6

Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the total number of deaths from smoking-related illnesses in people who are not smokers for the most recent period for which figures are available; and what proportion of these deaths she estimates were of people who worked in heavily smoke-filled environments. [5592]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 517–18W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated expenditure by *(a)* regional tobacco policy managers and *(b)* their regional offices is in 2005–06. [5610]

Caroline Flint: In 2005–06, £2 million has been allocated to the regional public health groups' budgets to support work on tobacco control. This information is shown in the following table.

Region	*Amount (£000)*
North East	170
Yorkshire and Humber	214
North West	260
West Midlands	219
East Midlands	192
Eastern	212
South East	258
South West	206
London	270
Total	2,000

Regional tobacco policy managers are integrated into the Government office for the regions to which they are appointed. Information on individual expenditure is not held centrally.

Specialists

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accredited specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation there have been in each of the last 20 years; how many such specialists there were per 100,000 of the population in each of those years; and what evidence she has evaluated on proportions per 100,000 of population in *(a)* other EU countries and *(b)* other G7 countries. [1619]

Mr. Byrne: The table shows information on the headcount of hospital and community health services (HCHS) medical staff in rehabilitation medicine per 100,000 population in each year since 1990, the first year for which figures are available. The latest population data available are for 2003.

Between 1996 and 2004, the number of HCHS medical staff working in rehabilitation medicine has increased from 130 to 226 and the number of consultants has doubled to 118 in this period.

International comparisons are not collected for rehabilitation medicine.

Hospital, Public Health Medicine and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical staff within the rehabilitation medicine specialty, showing number per 100,000 population—England at 30 September each year

Number (headcount) and number per 100,000 population

	HCHS medical staff	HCHS medical staff per 100,000 population	of which: Consultant	Consultants per 100,000 population	Associate specialist/staff grade	Associate specialist/staff grade per 100,000
1990	23	0.05	11	0.01	[1]	[1]
1991	45	0.09	31	0.02	1	0.00
1992	64	0.13	36	0.02	7	0.01
1993	74	0.15	34	0.03	10	0.02
1994	107	0.22	51	0.04	12	0.02
1995	118	0.24	53	0.05	13	0.03
1996	130	0.27	59	0.05	18	0.04
1997	146	0.30	70	0.06	17	0.03
1998	178	0.36	70	0.07	21	0.04
1999	184	0.38	74	0.09	23	0.05
2000	197	0.40	76	0.09	24	0.05
2001	216	0.44	84	0.08	30	0.06
2002	237	0.48	110	0.10	31	0.06
2003	243	0.49	116	0.10	28	0.06
2004	226	n/a	118	n/a	28	n/a

	Registrar group	Registrar group per 100,000 population	Senior house officer	Senior house officer per 100,000
1990	6	0.02	3	0.01
1991	8	0.07	[1]	[1]
1992	10	0.08	4	0.01
1993	14	0.07	4	0.01
1994	20	0.11	8	0.02
1995	24	0.11	3	0.01
1996	26	0.12	6	0.01
1997	31	0.14	6	0.01
1998	35	0.14	19	0.04
1999	43	0.15	11	0.02
2000	43	0.15	10	0.02
2001	41	0.17	15	0.03
2002	52	0.22	12	0.02
2003	48	0.23	19	0.04
2004	40	n/a	16	n/a

n/a—denotes not available. Population data for 2004 are not yet available.

[1] Denotes zero

Source:

NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre medical and dental workforce census.

Stroke Care

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals care for people who have suffered a stroke, but have yet to open a specialist stroke unit; and what the planned date is of the opening of each such unit which is to be provided at those hospitals. [4222]

Mr. Byrne: The latest information collected by the Department suggests that four national health service trusts do not currently have specialised stroke services in place. All other trusts now do.

Of the four outstanding, three say they will be compliant by the end of July. The Department continues to have discussions with the strategic health authorities for all four trusts to ensure that they are compliant as soon as possible.

Student Midwives

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to issue policy guidance following the ruling in the case of Fletcher *v.* NHS Pension Agency and the Secretary of State for Health to the NHS Pensions Agency on the subject of payment of bursaries to student midwives during maternity leave. [4653]

Mr. Byrne: We are currently considering the outcome of the employment appeal tribunal. We are committed to operating national health service bursaries in ways that are fair and support students across the range of domestic circumstances, in which they might find themselves.

Telecommunications Masts

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research her Department has examined on the effect of mobile phone masts on brain waves; and if she will make a statement. [5494]

Caroline Flint: There has been very little work regarding the effects of the radiofrequency signals from mobile phone base stations on the electrical activity of the brain as these exposures are very small; usually many thousands of times below human exposure guideline values. Research in this area has therefore focused on the effects of exposure from the fields associated with mobile phone handsets. Exposure measurements around base stations are available on the websites of the Health Protection Agency at www.hpa.org.uk/radiation and Ofcom at www.ofcom.org.uk

The research on health effects from radiofrequency electromagnetic fields was comprehensively reviewed by the independent advisory group on non-ionising radiation in 2003. The review concluded that:

"Exposure levels from living near to mobile phone base stations are extremely low and the overall evidence indicates that they are unlikely to pose a risk to health."

Nevertheless, in view of the recommended precautionary approach to the use of these technologies, the mobile telecommunications and health research programme in the United Kingdom, funded jointly by the Government and the mobile phone industry, is supporting a study examining if signals from handsets may affect brain wave activity in volunteers under rigorous experimental conditions. The results of the study are expected to be published in due course.

Trauma Centre Status

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services hospitals must be able to provide in order to obtain trauma centre status. [811]

Mr. Byrne: There is no nationally set definition of a 'trauma centre' in England. It is for local providers of health care services, in conjunction with their commissioners and clinicians, to determine the most appropriate range and size of those supporting services needed to support seriously injured or wounded patients.

Travel Inoculations

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to review charges for necessary travel inoculations. [5385]

Mr. Byrne: Government policy for travel vaccination charges was reviewed during negotiations for the new General Medical Service contract, introduced in April 2004. There are no further plans to review the present arrangements.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the impact of the Working Time Directive on West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust; [3993]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the Article III-278 (7) of the EU Constitution on EU regulations on Working Time in Hospitals, with particular reference to West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust. [3992]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Implementation of the Working Time Directive is a local national health service matter. The vast majority of trusts achieved compliance across all specialties by 1 August 2004, although a small number of trusts experienced teething problems in a limited number of specialties.

If the proposed constitution were adopted and came into force, regulations made under the current treaty would remain valid and the United Kingdom would need to implement them, unless the regulations were amended in the meantime.

HOME OFFICE

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 15 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mr. Chris Siddiqi. [6172]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 27 April 2005.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 23 June 2005

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aquatic Environment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work has been carried out *(a)* by and *(b)* on behalf of her Department to establish the background levels of fluoxetine in the aquatic environment. [4448]

Mr. Bradshaw: During 2002–03 the Environment Agency carried out a desk based ranking exercise on the 500 pharmaceuticals most commonly used in England and Wales in order to prioritise those of environmental significance. This exercise included fluoxetine, more commonly known under the trade name Prozac. A short, targeted monitoring programme was then set up for 12 pharmaceuticals. Fluoxetine was not included because no analytical method suitable for use on environmental samples existed and development of one would be difficult.

The top ranked antidepressant was lofepramine and this was included in the monitoring survey. Lofepramine was not detected in any of the five sewage works effluents or receiving watercourses monitored. However, it does not necessarily follow that the same would be true for fluoxetine.

The Environment Agency have developed a Position Statement on Pharmaceuticals—which can be found on the agency's website, www.environment-agency.gov.uk (search-pharmaceuticals). This elaborates further on the work done and includes a recommendation to the pharmaceutical industry to do more on the development of analytical methods for environmental monitoring. I am pleased that the Environment Agency is in discussion with the industry on the development of a work programme to cover the recommendations to industry listed in the Position Statement.

Fisheries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to preserve fish stocks in UK waters. [5396]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are a range of policies in European Union and UK legislation to protect fish stocks. The Government's response to the "net benefits" report which made a wide-ranging series of recommendations to secure sustainable fisheries in the waters around the UK will be published on 28 June 2005.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been prosecuted for fishing without a licence in London in each year since 1997. [5149]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency administers and collects the rod licence fee for England and Wales. Due to the constraints of their databases and the historic data recorded we cannot answer the specific questions, and have provided figures for the Thames region.

The Fisheries Offence Processing System (FOPS) database has only been live since the year 2000. Data prior to this date, for prosecutions was sourced from regional legal Departments.

Historic data sourced from the Environment Agency's regional legal Departments for all rod and line related offences prosecuted

	Successful prosecutions in the Thames region
1997–98	722
1998–99	830
1999–2000	883

Source:
The Environment Agency

Recent data sourced from the FOPS database for rod and line licence offences—fishing without a licence

	Successful prosecutions in the Thames region
2000–01	764
2001–02	851
2002–03	604
2003–04	722
2004–05	805

Source:
The Environment Agency

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was collected in fines from people fishing without a licence in London in each year since 1997. [5259]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency administers and collects the rod licence fee for England and Wales. Due to the constraints of their databases and the historic data recorded we cannot answer the specific questions, and have provided figures for the Thames region.

The fisheries offence processing system (FOPS) database has only been live since the year 2000. Data prior to this date, for prosecutions was sourced from regional legal departments.

Historic data sourced from regional legal departments for all rod and line related offences prosecuted.

	Fines awarded by the court in Thames region (£)
1997–98	30,200
1998–99	37,936
1999–2000	42,517

Source:
The Environment Agency

Recent data sourced from the FOPS database for rod and line licence offences—fishing without a licence.

	Fines awarded by the court in Thames region (£)
2000–01	40,237
2001–02	46,182

	Fines awarded by the court in Thames region (£)
2002–03	34,076
2003–04	42,133
2004–05	49,755

Source:
The Environment Agency

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishing licences have been issued in London in each year since 1997. [5278]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency (EA) administers and collects the rod licence fee for England and Wales. Due to the constraints of their databases and the historic data recorded we cannot answer the specific questions, and have provided the figures for the Thames region.

The rod licensing administration database (RAD) database has only been live since the year 2000. The EA cannot source information for rod licence sales prior to this date.

Data sourced from the RAD for rod licence sales.

	Rod licence sales in the Thames region (£)
2000–01	175,954
2001–02	187,249
2002–03	199,545
2003–04	210,610
2004–05	204,194

Source:
The Environment Agency

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to tackle the poaching of fish. [5336]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2003–04, the Environment Agency carried out a review of enforcement with respect to the more serious fisheries offences (those excluding the more straightforward acts associated with angling without a licence). It also spent £3.2 million on enforcement against serious fisheries offences.

In 2004 the Environment Agency issued 350 warrants to officers to enforce fisheries laws as per the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, which provides that an officer warranted by the Environment Agency as a water bailiff holds the powers and duties of a police constable.

The Environment Agency has established good relationships with police forces, having signed a memorandum of understanding with the Association of Chief Police Officers. This covers such matters as the sharing of intelligence, access to databases and mutual working arrangements. Contacts are also well established with the relevant Sea Fisheries Committee and, as locally appropriate, with the Sea Fisheries Inspectorate, HM Customs and Excise and/or the Department of Defence. Arrangements include cross-warranting of officers, sharing of equipment, exchange of intelligence and collaborative operations.

Flood Zone Maps

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* representations she has had from local authorities on the new Environment Agency maps of zones susceptible to flooding; and if she will make a statement. [6363]

Mr. Morley: Improved flood risk maps were published by the Environment Agency in October 2004 as part of a five-year programme of development and refinement.

Flood risk mapping is an important part of the our public awareness strategy, to ensure that flood risk is better understood by all concerned including people living and working in the floodplains and those responsible for development control and emergency planning.

We recently sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders on issues relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management as part of our "Making Space for Water" consultation. Local authorities responded on a wide range of issues including flood risk mapping. In general recent improvements to the flood risk maps were welcomed and suggestions were made on how they could be improved further. These views will be considered as part of the ongoing "Making Space for Water" programme. The responses are summarised on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waterspace/index.htm.

Galapagos Islands

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to help maintain biodiversity on the Galapagos Islands. [5881]

Jim Knight: The UK is currently involved in a number of projects aimed at preserving the biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands. Since 1993 the British Government have approved a total of £1,087,561 in funding for 24 separate environmental projects. These include four current projects under my Department's Darwin Initiative, which funds biodiversity projects in developing countries using UK expertise in partnership with local organisations.

British embassy representatives in Ecuador also take part in regular Galapagos round table meetings to discuss issues relating to the environmental management of the islands. These are attended by major Galapagos donors and local government officials. The embassy also maintains close contact with the new British Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

Pest Damage

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will issue best practice guidelines to local authorities on their duty under S2(1)*(a)* of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 with reference to *(a)* the (i) nature and (ii) frequency of inspections required by the Act and *(b)* the training and qualifications of inspectors; and if she will make a statement. [4853]

Jim Knight: It is for local authorities to decide on the most appropriate pest control programme in their own area, while having regard to their duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. Therefore Defra has no plans to issue best practice guidelines to local authorities on their duty under S2(1)*(a)* of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

Radioactive Waste Management

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the responsibilities of *(a)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, *(b)* Nirex and *(c)* nuclear power generators for identifying long-term options for dealing with (i) high level and (ii) intermediate level radioactive material. [5888]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) has been set up under the "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely" programme to oversee a review of options for managing the UK's higher activity radioactive waste, and to recommend the option, or combination of options, that can provide a long-term solution, providing protection for people and the environment. CoRWM is due to deliver its recommendations by July 2006. UK Government and the devolved administrations will then decide policy and its means of delivery in light of CoRWM's recommendations. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Nirex and the nuclear power generators are all free, along with others, to input their views and supporting material to the CoRWM option assessment process.

The role of the NDA is set out in the Energy Act 2004. It's purpose is to oversee and manage the decommissioning and clean-up of the UK's civil public sector nuclear legacy. Nirex's mission is

> "in support of Government policy, develop and advise on safe, environmentally sound and publicly acceptable options for the long-term management of radioactive materials in the UK".

The owners of radioactive waste are obliged to make suitable arrangements for the management of their waste, according to Government policy and regulatory requirements.

River Thames (Pollution)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many meetings officials from her Department have attended with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and the Greater London Authority since June 2004 to discuss the levels of raw sewage in the River Thames; [5266]

(3) what assessment she has made of the level of pollution in the River Thames; and if she will make a statement; [5275]

(2) how much raw sewage was discharged into the River Thames in each month since June 2004; [5274]

(4) whether the condition of water in the Thames breaches the European Union Urban Waste Water Directive; [5302]

(5) what assessment she has made of the need for an interceptor tunnel in the River Thames; and if she will make a statement. [5319]

Mr. Morley: The objective of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. The directive does not however set specific standards for the condition of inland and coastal waters into which waste water is discharged. Rather, it includes requirements to put in place sewage collecting systems, and sets standards for the treatment of sewage at sewage treatment works. Treatment standards and deadlines are set according to the size of the population served and the sensitivity of waters receiving the discharges.

The sewage collection system serving London is a combined system which collects both domestic and industrial waste water, and rainwater run-off. The directive acknowledges that it is not possible in practice to construct combined collecting systems and treatment plants to deal with all waste water during situations such as unusually heavy rainfall. Consequently the directive requires the limitation of pollution of receiving waters due to storm water overflows according to best technical knowledge not entailing excessive cost. The system along the tidal Thames has combined sewer overflows which operate to prevent flooding and sewage treatment works from becoming overloaded during wet weather.

The estimated volumes of sewage pumped to the river during some wet weather conditions in the following table are taken from pumping station records from the five largest pumping stations that discharge to the Thames Tideway. These are the only "overflow" points that have records of discharge volumes and are considered to be responsible for approximately 60 per cent. of the overflow discharges to the tideway in wet weather. The remaining 40 per cent. come from other pumping stations and gravity sewers. These percentages will vary considerably depending on the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall across London as well as other factors such as tidal state.

Month	*Estimated volume (m^3)*
June 2004	3,047,000
July 2004	1,260,000
August 2004	4,945,000
September 2004	446,000
October 2004	4,290,000
November 2004	304,000
December 2004	4,507,000
January 2005	825,000
February 2005	502,000
March 2005	2,052,000
April 2005	1,305,000
May 2005	nil
June 2005	324,000
June 2004 to present—16 June 2005	
Total	23,807,000

The pollution of the tidal Thames by storm water overflows and compliance with the standards of legislation for continuous discharges is of considerable concern to this Administration.

Since 2000 Thames Water, the Environment Agency, Defra, the Greater London Authority and the Office of Water Services (Ofwat) have been involved in a strategic

study of the environmental impact of intermittent storm sewage (sewage and rainwater run-off) discharges to the Thames Tideway. The remit of the study was to identify objectives for improvement, and to propose potential solutions, having regard to costs and benefits.

Since June 2004 five meetings of the Thames Tideway Strategic Study Steering Group have been held with my officials in attendance. The Greater London Authority representative did not attend one of the five meetings.

The strategic study has developed three principal objectives:

to protect the ecology of the tideway;

to reduce the aesthetic pollution due to sewage-derived litter; and

to protect the health of recreational water users.

With regard to the assessment of the River Thames against these objectives the information can be found in the Thames Tideway Strategic Study Steering Group Report at www.thamestidewaystrategicstudy.co.uk. Defra has not made a separate assessment of the level of pollution of the Thames.

We consider that the proposal arising from the interim report of the group for a large 35 km interceptor tunnel needs further investigation—it would take about 15 years to implement and cost in the order of £1.7 billion.

My officials and the Thames Tideway Strategic Study Steering Group are carrying out further consideration of the issues and possible appropriate smaller-scale measures which may be able to deliver needed improvements sooner than could be delivered by the proposed tunnel. The report of the further findings and options presented, which is expected soon, will be carefully considered by Ministers and a decision will be taken on an appropriate course of action to be taken to meet our obligations to protect the environment in a cost effective way. No options including the interceptor tunnel are being ruled out at this stage.

Sugar

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome of the 2004 meeting between the European Council and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries on the EU sugar regime was; and if she will make a statement. [5622]

Jim Knight: In preparation for reform of the EU sugar regime, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers have had a range of contacts with the EU's existing preferential suppliers, notably in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries.

As part of that dialogue, a joint meeting was held immediately following the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 25 January 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the Commission's approach to reform and to discuss the proposed action plan on accompanying measures for Sugar Protocol countries likely to be affected. Commissioner Fischer Boel reiterated the case for early and substantive reform and said that she hoped for agreement before the WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in December. Commissioner Michel stressed that the EU would help the ACP to adapt on the basis of the actual needs of the countries concerned. Commissioner Mandelson underlined that preferential access to the EU market for ACP producers would be an important part of the Economic Partnership Agreements currently being negotiated with the ACP states.

Tallow

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the receipts to her Department were from the sale of tallow from animals slaughtered under compulsory schemes in each of the last three years; and what the projected income or deficit figures for the sale of tallow are for the next three years. [5663]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Sales of tallow from animals slaughtered under the over-30-month scheme have resulted in the following receipts:

	£000
2002–03	1,888
2003–04	1,251
2004–05	4,957

Because of impending changes to the over-30-month scheme estimates for future tallow income are limited to the current financial year (2005–06) where sales of £2.35 million are forecast.

Water Charges

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 443W, on water meter charges, if she will break down those in receipt of the social tariff in each of the last three years by water company. [6729]

Mr. Morley: The following table sets out the numbers of customers in receipt of the vulnerable groups tariff (social tariff) for each company, over the last three years for which figures are available, as collected by Ofwat. Figures for 2004–05 are not yet available and will be published in October.

Number of successful applications for the vulnerable groups tariff

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Anglian and Hartlepool	954	966	899
Dwr Cymru	8	78	245
United Utilities	706	946	1,031
Northumbrian and Essex and Suffolk	283	316	378
Severn Trent	373	449	682
South West	468	601	912
Southern	275	325	271
Thames	519	675	1,097
Wessex	182	202	294
Yorkshire and York	460	594	768
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	24	50	69
Bristol	67	93	99
Cambridge	40	51	74
Dee Valley	1	3	5
Folkestone	12	12	11
Mid Kent	52	66	83
Portsmouth	18	14	13
South East Water	59	65	78
South Staffs	26	32	36
Sutton and East Surrey	0	5	10

Number of successful applications for the vulnerable groups tariff

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Tendring Hundred	91	132	98
Three Valleys/North Surrey	98	157	49
Total	4,716	5,832	7,202

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Inland Revenue received about the administration of child tax credit in 2003–04. [6188]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 393W, to the hon. Member for Walsall, North (Mr. Winnick).

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken by HM Revenue and Customs to improve the administration of child tax credit. [6189]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement I made to the House on 22 June 2005.

Gross Domestic Product

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross domestic product per head was in *(a)* London, *(b)* Edinburgh, *(c)* Cardiff, *(d)* Glasgow, *(e)* Belfast, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Bristol, *(h)* Leeds, *(i)* Birmingham, *(j)* Manchester, *(k)* Sheffield, *(l)* Newcastle, *(m)* Nottingham and *(n)* the UK in (i) the most recent year for which figures are available, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 1997. [6355]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Jim Cousins, dated 23 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about GDP per capita in regions of the United Kingdom in the last period for which figures are available, for 2001 and for 1997. (6355)

The estimates in Table A are based on the regional gross value added1 (GVA) estimates published in December 2004. These are available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBavSe/Productasp?vlnk = 7359

The latest published information is for 2003 at the higher level of geography and 2002 at the lower levels. London is the only city with data available for GVA per capita in 2003, as specified below.

Table A: GVA[1] per capita for regions of the United Kingdom

£

Area	1997	2001	2002	2003
London	17,850	21,793	23,068	23,579
Edinburgh	18,301	22,283	24,016	—
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan[2]	12,638	16,527	17,484	—
Glasgow	15,398	19,454	20,575	—
Inner Belfast[3]	15,932	20,779	22,123	—
Outer Belfast[3]	7,637	9,704	10,367	—
Liverpool	10,508	12,846	13,776	—
Bristol	16,630	20,326	21,513	—
Leeds	13,817	17,129	18,305	—
Birmingham	12,608	15,737	16,466	—
Manchester	11,265	13,772	14,458	—
Sheffield	10,705	13,192	13,835	—
Tyneside[4]	10,590	13,245	14,002	—
Nottingham	16,919	19,547	20,113	—
UK less Extra-Regio[5]	12,085	14,545	15,273	15,980

[1] Information presented here is gross value added (GVA) which is gross domestic product (GDP) less taxes (plus subsidies) on products.
[2] Cardiff is part of the NUTS3 region Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, which is currently the lowest level of geography ONS publish.
[3] Outer Belfast and Inner Belfast are published as separate NUTS3 regions.
[4] Newcastle is part of Tyneside (NUTS3) which is currently the lowest level of Geography ONS publish.
[5] Extra-Regio is that part of the UK's economic territory, which cannot be allocated to any specific region.

Household Incomes

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross disposable household income was in *(a)* current and *(b)* real price terms, using 2005 as the base year, for (i) each region, (ii) each country of the UK and (iii) the United Kingdom, for each year from 1996 to 2003; and if he will set out figures for each region and country indexed against the United Kingdom average. [6321]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Jim Cousins, dated 23 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about gross disposable household income. (6321)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) currently compiles regional gross domestic household income (GDHI) at current basic prices only. These are shown in Table A in pounds million and in Table B as indices.

The latest estimates were published in April 2005 with new figures for 2000 to 2003 and revisions for 1995 to 1999. They are available on the ONS website: http://statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk = 7359

ONS produce national real price estimates for household income. The latest available estimates using 2001 as the reference year are available for the years requested, 1996 to 2003, and are shown in Table C. These figures were published in "United Kingdom Economic Accounts, Quarter 4, 2004", which can be found on the National Statistics website at: http://statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/UKEA04Q4.pdf

Table A: Headline[1] gross disposable household income (GDHI)[2,3] at current prices

£ million

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[4]
United Kingdom	528,459	563,421	580,084	609,428	654,654	702,774	724,296	752,592
England	447,197	477,882	492,897	518,648	557,316	598,486	616,409	640,383
North East	20,504	21,621	21,972	22,744	24,173	25,685	26,430	27,393
North West	57,094	60,538	62,056	64,717	69,143	73,686	75,781	78,652

Table A: Headline[1] gross disposable household income (GDHI)[2,3] at current prices

£ million

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[4]
Yorkshire and the Humber	41,558	44,128	45,369	47,179	50,393	53,701	55,264	57,415
East Midlands	34,592	36,788	37,800	39,538	42,493	45,749	47,353	49,377
West Midlands	43,910	46,514	47,746	50,002	53,586	57,361	59,137	61,455
East of England	50,533	54,076	55,837	58,983	63,833	69,199	71,710	74,762
London	75,759	81,777	85,195	91,030	98,430	06,057	108,723	112,551
South East	79,288	85,541	88,556	93,485	100,395	107,993	111,030	115,267
South West	43,940	46,900	48,365	50,970	54,870	59,056	60,980	63,511
Wales	23,388	24,577	25,112	26,267	28,305	30,368	31,452	32,720
Scotland	43,701	46,049	46,852	48,652	51,986	55,555	57,260	59,439
Northern Ireland	13,099	13,833	14,177	14,784	15,860	16,998	17,648	18,403
Extra-Regio[5]	1,075	1,080	1,045	1,077	1,188	1,368	1,529	1,646

[1] The headline regional GDHI series for this publication have been calculated using a five point moving average.
[2] Household income covers the income received by households and non-profit institutions serving households.
[3] Components may not sum to totals as a result of rounding.
[4] Provisional.
[5] Parts of the UK economic territory that cannot be assigned to any particular region.

Table B: Headline[1] gross disposable income per head (GDHI)[2] indices at current prices

UK less Extra-Regio = 100

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[3]
United Kingdom[4]	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
England	102	102	103	103	103	103	103	103
North East	88	87	87	86	86	85	85	86
North West	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Yorkshire and the Humber	92	92	92	92	92	91	91	91
East Midlands	93	93	92	92	92	92	92	92
West Midlands	92	92	91	91	92	92	92	92
East of England	107	106	106	107	107	108	109	109
London	120	121	122	123	123	122	121	121
South East	112	113	113	113	113	113	113	113
South West	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101
Wales	89	88	87	87	88	88	88	88
Scotland	95	94	93	93	93	92	93	93
Northern Ireland	87	86	85	85	85	85	85	86

[1] The headline regional GDHI series for this publication have been calculated using a five point moving average.
[2] Household income covers the income received by households and non-profit institutions serving households.
[3] Provisional.
[4] Excluding Extra-Regio.

Table C: Real household disposable income: Chained volume measure

	£ million (Reference year 2001)	Index (2001 = 100)
1996	586,303	83.6
1997	610,183	87
1998	611,966	87.2
1999	631,836	90.1
2000	670,075	95.5
2001	701,585	100.0
2002	711,344	101.4
2003	729,630	104

Income Tax Returns

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of individuals filed their self-assessment returns on time in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [7087]

Dawn Primarolo: The figures of returns issued before 31 October each year and received on time are as follows:

Return year	Percentage filed by 31 January
2003–04	90.6
2002–03	90.6
2001–02	90.5
2000–01	90.6
1999–2000	90.0

Money Laundering

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received regarding concerns about money laundering through landlords' use of the insurance premium tax system. [6643]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Treasury have received no representations regarding concerns about money laundering through landlords' use of the insurance premium tax system.

Tax Underpayments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the underpayment of

(a) direct tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [7103]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no reliable estimate of the direct tax and national insurance contributions underpaid in any of the last 10 years. However, as was acknowledged by the NAO Fraud Study published last year, HMRC is as well advanced as overseas fiscal authorities in its thinking and work on fraud measurement.

VAT

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the 100 per cent. VAT refund on repairs to listed religious buildings and to listed buildings of non-religious and secular significance. [6665]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are negotiating with our EU partners to achieve a reduced rate of VAT for repairs to listed places of worship. The Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme is due to continue until March 2008, unless a reduced rate is achieved earlier. The Government recognises the importance of these buildings within their communities and that the need to use specialist craftsmen and costly materials means that their upkeep can be a heavy burden, particularly on small congregations. The same considerations do not apply to all listed buildings. Approved alterations to certain charity, or residential, listed buildings are VAT zero-rated.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has further to expand the VAT exemption scheme in Northern Ireland to cover all church buildings. [7158]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury gave on 4 April 2005, *Official Report*, column 1168W, to the former right hon. Member for Upper Bann (Mr. Trimble).

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what tenders have been issued by the Central Office of Information on behalf of the *(a)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* Department for Constitutional Affairs concerning communications activity relating to EU matters. [2102]

Mr. Hutton: The Central Office of Information (COI) has issued tenders on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to the United Kingdom (UK) presidency of the European Union (EU), as follows:

recruiting a public relations agency to inform consumer and regional media on the presidency priorities;

recruiting an integrated marketing agency to inform UK audiences on the presidency priorities;

printing information materials for distribution during the presidency;

producing official presidency stationery and products;

research to test information materials and identify key areas of interest.

COI has separately issued tenders in relation to:

development of e-communications activity;

mailing of EU Guide to libraries, citizens advice bureau etc;

research to test information materials such as the EU Guide;

development of partnership marketing activity;

activity to raise awareness of the facts about the EU and to inform the public on where to access EU information.

COI has not issued any tenders on behalf of the Department for Constitutional Affairs on EU matters.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the south-east. [6251]

Mr. Hutton: The Cabinet Office is implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 250 posts out of London and the south-east by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some posts to relatively deprived areas in the south-east.

TRANSPORT

Borough Market

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for the Borough Market site if the deficiencies identified by the public inquiry inspector, in respect of the proposed Thameslink route, cannot be remedied. [5098]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail as the promoters of the Thameslink route modernisation scheme have revised their proposals to address the deficiencies identified at the earlier public inquiry. Their latest proposals, including those in respect of the Borough Market area, will be considered at the re-opened inquiry which starts in September. Once the inquiry inspector has reported, the various applications relating to this scheme will require joint decisions by this Department and ODPM. The Department cannot anticipate the outcome.

Concessionary Bus Travel

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what distribution formula is proposed for the free bus travel scheme for over 60s from April 2006; and what indicative allocations have been set for each local authority for 2006–07. [6385]

Ms Buck: Final decisions on the distribution of the extra funding—which will be done through the Revenue Support Grant process—have not been made.

Container Ports

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of likely container port demand in the UK; [6783]

(2) what assessment he has made of the change in volume of container traffic which is likely to arise from the current applications for port expansion in the south of England. [6877]

Dr. Ladyman: The forthcoming review of ports policy, due to be launched once preliminary work has been completed, will address the key questions around existing and future port capacity and demand.

To that end, my Department has commissioned consultants to produce national port traffic forecasts by region. These forecasts will include demand for container traffic through to 2030 in southern England as well as nationally, and will be published as part of the review.

Council Road Budgets

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities underspent on their road maintenance budgets in the last financial year; and by how much in each case. [7114]

Mr. Darling: Information on local authorities' spending on road maintenance in 2004–05 will not be available until early next year.

EU Driver Licensing Committee

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 9W, on the EU Driver Licensing Committee, when he expects a decision to be taken in relation to revisions to the medical standards set out in Annex III to European Directive 91/439/EEC. [6731]

Ms Buck: The timetable for the work of the EU Committee on the Driving Licence is a matter for the European Commission. Before any decision is taken on medical standards, we intend to consult the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panels on any proposals which may be made for change to these standards.

Global Oil Prices

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the assumptions used by the Future of Transport White Paper published on 21 March take account of potential future changes in global oil *(a)* prices and *(b)* resources. [1235]

Ms Buck *[holding answer 26 May 2005]:* The modelling and analysis supporting the White Paper was based on DTI's May 2004 long-term modelling assumptions for crude oil of $23 a barrel (2003 prices) in 2010 rising to almost $28 a barrel by 2020. This was consistent with assumptions used by the International Energy Agency.

A good deal of uncertainty surrounds all transport projections. At present, developments in the oil market are injecting a major element of uncertainty. Sustained higher oil prices would imply lower traffic growth. If crude oil prices were to end up around US$5 a barrel higher in real terms in 2010 than assumed, we expect traffic projections would fall by around 1 per cent.

Heathrow

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the British Airports Authority regarding the proposed third runway for Heathrow; and if he will make a statement. [5892]

Ms Buck: The Secretary of State meets with BAA on a periodic basis to discuss a range of issues affecting the company's airports, including Heathrow. There is a substantial programme of work under way in the Department, working with BAA and others, to assess the prospects for further development at Heathrow, including adding a third runway, while meeting the stringent environmental conditions laid down in the Air Transport White Paper (Cm6046). Further details about this, which is known as the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow, are available on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk/aviation/projectheathrow).

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed *(a)* third runway and *(b)* sixth terminal at Heathrow Airport on (i) road, (ii) train and (iii) tube routes to the airport from central London. [5894]

Ms Buck: The impact of an expanded Heathrow on the surrounding surface access network was examined in the run up to Air Transport White Paper. The White Paper concluded that any further development of Heathrow would require improvements to public transport (especially rail infrastructure) and that some form of road user charging should also be considered. The surface access measures necessary to support an expanded Heathrow are being examined further as part of the project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow.

Kent Roads Budget

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much central funding Kent county council has received for its roads budget in each year since 1997. [6728]

Ms Buck: The Department for Transport has approved approximately £268 million of funding support for Kent county council between April 1997 and March 2005 in local transport capital settlements. Approximately £74 million has been for capital highways maintenance, £46 million for local improvements to the road network and roads based public transport and £148 million for major schemes (each costing more than £5 million). The major schemes were mainly road improvements, but also included is support for investment in the Fastrack public transport network in Kent Thames-side.

In addition to funding provided through the local transport capital settlement, the Government also provided funding to Kent county council covering most of the costs of the Ramsgate harbour approach road.

In addition central funding support for services, including routine highways services, is provided through revenue support grant. This is not allocated by the Government between individual council services.

The funding support provided directly to Kent county council through the local transport capital settlement for each year is shown in the table. It has been for Kent county council to determine.

Kent county council local transport capital settlement

£000

	Capital highways maintenance	Integrated transport block	Major schemes	Total
1997–98	4,495	2,275	72,834	79,604
1998–99	2,774	2,460	29,000	34,234
1999–2000	4,412	4,400	20,456	29,268
2000–01	6,466	4,411	5,100	15,977
2001–02	11,513	7,600	7,600	26,713
2002–03	12,149	8,129	3,720	23,998
2003–04	15,108	8,920	700	24,728
2004–05	16,705	7,896	8,650	33,251

Parking

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has undertaken into ways of addressing parking shortages in town centres, with particular reference to controlled parking zones. [6546]

Ms Buck: The Department is about to publish the results of research about the extent to which restrictions in controlled parking zones are understood. This does not specifically deal with parking shortages in town centres, which is a responsibility for local authorities under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Railways

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints his Department received concerning each train operating company in the last year for which figures are available. [7107]

Mr. Darling: The Department does not index correspondence by train operating company, and this information is therefore not available.

The number of complaints received by the Rail Passengers Council about different train operators is published in its annual report. The results of the national passenger survey on passenger satisfaction are published on 24 June in the Strategic Rail Authority's National Rail Trends Yearbook 2004–05, a copy of which is placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road bridges there are over railway lines in the Stroud constituency; and how many of these have additional measures of protection. [7241]

Ms Buck: This information is not held centrally. Gloucestershire county council is the highway authority for the Stroud constituency, and is responsible for almost all road bridges over railway lines there.

Road Lane Closures

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what authority *(a)* private contractors, *(b)* the emergency services and *(c)* others have to cone off road lanes; and if he will make a statement. [5910]

Ms Buck: Private contractors carrying out works on the road for highway authorities should follow the advice in chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual; if working for utility companies they should follow the guidance in Safety at Street Works and Road Works—a Code of Practice. These publications show how works should be set out, including how cones should be used to close off sections of a road, to ensure the safety of the work force and road users. If any works require a temporary traffic regulation order, for example to close a road, then the relevant highway authority must make the order.

Local authority or utility employees carrying out works on the road will be subject to the same requirements as contractors working for the bodies concerned.

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 gives the police powers to place signs, which includes traffic cones, when dealing with events, incidents and emergencies. The Traffic Management Act 2004 gives Highway Agency Traffic Officers powers to direct traffic and to place signs on the agency's roads in order to manage traffic.

The Traffic Signs (Temporary Obstructions) Regulations 1997 specify the devices that may be used for directing traffic round broken-down vehicles and other temporary obstructions, and conditions for placing them. The devices include traffic cones, flat traffic delineators or traffic pyramids.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Prisoners

23. **Mr. Breed:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the female prison population. [6538]

Meg Munn: I very much welcome the recent announcement by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary of £9.15 million funding over four years for "a radical new approaches to help reduce women's offending". The new initiatives, set up in two areas, will include women's Community Supervision and Support Centres. These will provide women with one-stop access to the support and services needed to address issues that can affect why women offend, such as drug abuse, mental health, housing, child care and domestic violence. I and my right hon. Friend the Cabinet Minister for Women are in close contact with the relevant Ministers.

Pregnant Employees

24. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to ensure the equal treatment of pregnant women within the workplace. [6539]

Meg Munn: Employers who discriminate against pregnant women are breaking the law. We have taken the opportunity afforded by the amended Equal Treatment Directive to clarify the law and are amending the Sex Discrimination Act so that it explicitly outlaws pregnancy discrimination in the workplace.

Return to Work

25. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to help women returning to work after *(a)* giving birth and *(b)* bringing up a family. [6540]

Meg Munn: We recently consulted on options to encourage communication between employers and employees and ease women's return to work after time away to give birth and care for children. Other work includes an RDA pilot providing women returners with career advice and training, and the Women and Work Commission, who will report to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in the autumn on ways of giving women a fairer deal in the workplace.

Trafficking

26. **Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs concerning the Council of Europe convention on trafficking in relation to the trafficking of women. [6541]

Meg Munn: I fully support the work my hon. Friend the Member for Wythenshawe and Sale, East (Paul Goggins), the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, is doing in relation to the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking. My hon. Friend chairs the Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking and I will be attending the next meeting of the Ministerial Group, the first such meeting since my appointment.

Pay Discrimination

John Bercow: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with contractors to Government Departments about pay discrimination on gender grounds. [6542]

Meg Munn: The Office of Government Commerce is currently producing guidance to cover "Social Issues in Purchasing". This includes how and where gender and other social considerations may be incorporated in public sector procurement. It is acknowledged that the current framework allows scope to take account of gender considerations, as long as they occur within the existing legal and policy framework.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Darfur

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on humanitarian aid for the Darfur region of Sudan in each of the last three years; and what his plans are for each of the next three years. [6334]

Hilary Benn: Since the start of the crisis in Darfur in April 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £90 million of humanitarian aid to the Darfur crisis, including assistance to Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad. In the financial year 2003–04 DFID spent £7 million on humanitarian aid, of which £3 million went to the refugees in eastern Chad. In the financial year 2004–05 DFID spent £48.5 million on humanitarian aid for Darfur; of this £7 million went to eastern Chad. In the current financial year, 2005–06, DFID has set aside £75 million for humanitarian work across Sudan. Of this, DFID has so far spent £10 million on humanitarian aid to the Darfur region; of which £0.3 million has gone to eastern Chad.

A further £23.5 million is committed for humanitarian projects in Darfur this year, including £2 million for eastern Chad. A further £7.5 million is available for humanitarian assistance across Sudan including Darfur, but it has not yet been allocated to specific projects or locations. Given the evolving situation, DFID is not yet in a position to confirm how much humanitarian aid will go to the Darfur region in the next three years.

Education (Millennium Development Goal)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to provide universal primary education in Africa. [5693]

Hilary Benn: The most recent assessment of progress towards all the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)s is a United Nations report published in June 2005. A 2004 UN chart colour codes whether regions are on track to meet key MDG targets or not.

As reported in the United Nations Millennium Development Goal Report (2005), sub-Saharan Africa has made progress, but still has a third of its children out of school; 62 per cent. of children in this region were enrolled in primary school in 2001 (the most recently available figures). Unsurprisingly, given this, the UN's 2004 chart shows that this region is not on track to meet the universal primary education Millennium Development Goal (MDG) by 2015 without dramatically scaled up efforts. Northern Africa is however, on track to meet this target, with 92 per cent. of pupils enrolled in primary education in 2001.

The picture is not uniform. Appropriate policies and sufficient expenditure have enabled countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda to make good progress. These countries are judged on track to meet the universal primary education Millennium Development Goal (MDG) by 2015.

DFID puts a high priority on expanding primary school enrolment and promoting girls education and plans to contribute £1.4 billion to education in Africa between 2005 and 2008.

G8 Summit (African Debt)

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the financial impact of the G8 Finance Ministers meeting in June on African countries in the highly indebted poor countries initiative; and if he will make a statement. [6300]

Hilary Benn: At their meeting on 10/11 June, the G8 Finance Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to the full implementation and financing of the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. They also agreed a new proposal to cancel 100 per cent. of

qualifying HIPCs' debts to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank and the African Development Fund of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The proposal, to be presented to the Boards of the World Bank, IMF and AfDB, would cancel up to $55 billion worth of debt for 38 countries. Eighteen countries, 14 of which are in Africa, would immediately be eligible for this relief, as they have completed the HIPC process. They would benefit from up to $40 billion worth of debt cancellation. The G8 proposal will therefore free up substantial additional resources for spending on health, education and infrastructure and to help countries meet the Millennium Development Goals. The mechanism by which qualifying HIPC countries would receive this new multilateral debt relief would be by adjusting these countries' gross assistance flows by the amounts forgiven. Details of the proposal are still being worked out, so it is not yet possible to give precise figures of the net benefits to individual countries.

An additional nine African HIPCs are expected to complete the HIPC process over the next year or two. They would then also qualify for assistance under the new proposal. A further nine African countries have been identified as eligible for HIPC. However, conflict and governance concerns are hampering their progress through the HIPC process. As and when they complete the HIPC initiative, they would also qualify for assistance under this new deal.

The G8 Finance Ministers have agreed that G8 countries will provide their share of the finances needed to cover the cost of this debt relief. Therefore in addition to the proposed debt stock cancellation, the additional resources donors provide as compensation to the World Bank and AfDB would be channelled through IDA and the African Development Fund to benefit all recipient countries.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Family Resolutions Scheme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much the Government have spent to date on the Family Resolutions Pilot Scheme; how many couples have completed full courses on the Scheme; and if he will make a statement on the future of the Scheme. [4467]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Total expenditure on the Family Resolutions Pilot Project as of 31 May 2005 is £190,628. 47 couples have been referred to the Pilot. Of these, 23 couples have completed the full programme. We expect to take decisions on the future of the Family Resolutions Project in April 2006, after evaluation is complete.

Marked Electoral Registers

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) if she will ensure that her Department and its contractor Pickfords Records Management make no greater charge per page for the general election marked register than do local councils for marked registers after local elections; [6645]

(2) if she will ensure that marked registers remain in the custody of local authorities following future general elections. [6646]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 22 June 2005.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what *(a)* administrative and *(b)* legislative steps would need to be taken to ensure that marked registers remain in the custody of local authorities following a general election. [6647]

Ms Harman: Transferring the duty to store marked registers from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to local authorities, would require amending Schedule 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983. This could be achieved only through primary legislation.

If the duty to store election documents produced, at a general election, were to be transferred to local authorities, it would then be for those authorities to take any appropriate administrative steps to ensure effective storage of all documents, and access to those documents open to inspection, including the marked registers.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Abandoned Vehicles

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of Operation Scrap-it; and if he will make a statement. [5273]

Yvette Cooper: Operation Scrap-it, led by the Association of London Government, and funded as part of the Together programme has shown what can be achieved by focussed action on tackling nuisance vehicles. 98 per cent. of abandoned vehicles across London are now being removed within 72 hours and free take back of end of life vehicles is provided across the capital.

The Government's national strategy for tackling nuisance vehicles, published last November, aims to learn on this success and that of other schemes, such as the car clearance initiatives funded by the Arson Control Forum, to cut the number of abandoned vehicles by 25 per cent. by 2008.

Braeburn Park, Crayford

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received from the residents of Braeburn Park, Crayford in respect of the planning applications from FM Conway Dartford; and if he will make a statement. [6640]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister received a petition from the residents of Braeburn Park and a number of individual letters objecting to the development. These will be fully considered before a decision is made on whether to call in the application.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to make a decision on the FM Conway Dartford planning applications. [6641]

Mr. Woolas: These applications have been formally referred to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, the First Secretary of State as departures from the development plan. We are still considering whether they should be called in for the Secretary of State's decision and we expect to take a view on this very soon. I cannot make any further comment on the applications at this time.

Disability Discrimination Act

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he has issued on the application of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to public areas of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association (i) blocks, (ii) walkways, (iii) play areas and (iv) open spaces. [6774]

Mr. Woolas: It is the responsibility of local authorities and housing associations to ensure that they comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. Providing guidance on disability issues is one of the functions of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC). The DRC's part 3 code of practice deals with the duties placed by part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 on those providing goods, facilities or services to the public and those selling, letting or managing premises.

Fire Control Centre (South-east England)

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the net cost change that will ensue from the proposed Regional Fire Control Centre for South East England. [4932]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Figures for the south-east only are not currently available, as the business case for the FiReControl project currently exists at a national level. The new national network of control centres is expected to achieve, on average, a possible saving of 30 per cent. over existing arrangements from financial year 2009–10 onwards.

Housing Development (Flood Risk)

Mr. Todd: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will review the guidance given to local authorities on development in areas at risk from flooding or on a flood plain; and if he will make a statement. [6434]

Yvette Cooper: My right hon. Friend, the former Minister for Housing and Planning, announced that we will be revising planning policy on development and flood risk (PPG25) in his statement of 24 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 83WS.

Local Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the bodies in Gloucestershire with whom he has discussed plans for local government reorganisation. [6777]

Mr. Woolas: None. At present the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no plans for local government reorganisation.

Mobile Phone Masts

Anne Milton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government have to allow health concerns to be taken into account during the planning process for mobile phone masts. [3371]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are carefully considering the judgment on 13 November 2003 by the Court of Appeal in the case of "First Secretary of State *v.* T Mobile and others" and the report entitled "Mobile Phones and Health 2004" published by the National Radiological Protection Board on 11 January which both make reference to the extent to which local planning authorities can take health concerns into account in decisions about the siting of mobile phone base stations. The NRPB supports the Government view that whilst planning is necessarily a local issue the assessment of evidence related to possible health concerns associated with exposures to RF fields from base stations is best dealt with nationally.

Recreational Spaces (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what quantity of public recreational open space there was in each London borough in each year since 1997. [5283]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Regional Assemblies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he intends to hold a referendum on establishing an elected regional assembly in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humber. [4293]

Yvette Cooper: No. I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister's statement to the House given on 8 November 2004, *Official Report*, columns 587–89. The hon. Member was present during my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister's statement and led the response on behalf of the opposition.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of her Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6254]

Mr. Caborn: My Department and sponsored organisations are implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 600 posts out of London and the South East by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some of the posts to relatively deprived areas of the South East. So far, my Department has not identified any posts suitable for transfer to deprived areas of the South East.

Digital Satellite Broadcasting

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will ensure that those areas of the

country which are unable to receive digital terrestrial television for technical reasons have access to a free digital satellite service equivalent to Freeview at a comparable set-up cost. [6034]

James Purnell: All the BBCs television services are broadcast without encryption and can be accessed by viewers using digital satellite receivers and dishes available from retailers. In addition, a free-to view satellite service offering all public service broadcasting channels was launched by BSkyB in 2004.

The Government believe there are considerable benefits for consumers in broadcasters continuing to promote the development of free to view satellite provision. This will help to drive digital take up in areas poorly served by digital terrestrial in the run up to digital switchover.

Electronic Programming Guides

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when her Department expects the publication of Ofcom's Review of Electronic Programming Guides; and if she will make a statement. [5759]

James Purnell: The matter is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when her Department expects to publish its consultation on revised criteria for listing buildings; and if she will make a statement. [6484]

Mr. Lammy: As part of the wider reform of the heritage protection system, we expect to publish the consultation on the revised criteria for listing buildings in summer 2005.

National Sports Foundation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the outcome was of the recent meeting between the four sport consortiums and her Department to discuss the National Sports Foundation. [5242]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Discussions with the National Governing Bodies for Sport about the National Sports Foundation are at an early stage and no decisions have been made. Further details will be announced in due course.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her Answers of 24 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 53W, on the National Sports Foundation, when the Government expects to announce the *(a)* location, *(b)* budget, *(c)* staffing requirements, *(d)* structure and *(e)* grant criteria for the National Sports Foundation. [5370]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Discussions about the National Sports Foundation are at an early stage and no decisions have been made. Further details will be announced in due course.

Sports

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what initiatives are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned to meet the Department's public service agreement target to increase participation within priority groups, including women, by three per cent. by 2008. [6297]

Mr. Caborn: DCMS is working with Sport England on a range of key interventions to increase participation within priority groups, including women and we are in the process of agreeing a delivery plan with Sport England for the PSA target.

(a) Key initiatives in place include:

In the five years to 2008, Government investment in the PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy will top £1.5 billion, which also includes Lottery Fund assistance.

Investment of £60 million in the coaching programme that seeks to build on the National Strategy.

By 2006, Government and the National Lottery will have committed over £1 billion to develop new or refurbished sports facilities. We aim to develop a comprehensive facilities strategy mapping out supply, demand and priorities for investment.

(b) Planned initiatives include:

The creation of a National Sports Foundation, bringing together Government and the national governing bodies for sport, will be an investment fund for grassroots sport, with a £27 million initial investment as announced by the Chancellor in March.

The creation of "Sport Direct", a new information service which will establish a single portal for sport so that people can find out what is on offer in their local area.

In addition, Sport Action Zones (SAZs) were established in January 2000 as part of the Sport England Lottery Strategy to tackle sporting deprivation impacting on our target groups, in some of the most socially and environmentally deprived areas in the country.

The DCMS Participation Survey, starting in July 2005, will provide statistically robust data to monitor performance of our PSA targets.

Ulster Scots (Television Programmes)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provision there is in the BBC Charter for Ulster Scots programmes in Northern Ireland. [5509]

James Purnell: There is no specific requirement under the BBC's Charter for the provision of Ulster Scots programmes in Northern Ireland. However, the BBC does provide a range of content in Ulster Scots and the Government's March Green Paper on the BBC made clear that its role should include provision in indigenous minority languages across a range of platforms.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which aircraft he expects to fly from the new aircraft carrier in 2012. [3821]

Mr. Ingram: The future aircraft carrier has been designed with the flexibility to operate a variety of aircraft, both fixed-wing and rotary. The planned composition of the first carrier's air group continues to be defined, but we anticipate that the Joint Combat Aircraft, which we expect to start taking delivery of in 2011, will be conducting flight trials from the new carrier when it enters service, as part of our progressive approach to providing the future carrier strike capability.

Departmental Equipment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the value of his Department's equipment *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years, broken down by service. [5057]

Mr. Touhig: The value of losses to the Ministry of Defence in each of the last five years are listed in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

The figures representing the MOD's equipment stolen in each of the last five years are not available in the requested format. However, the totals for each period are as follows:

Financial year	*Value (£)*
2004–05	677,000.00
2003–04	1,220,000.00
2002–03	326,000.00
2001–02	85,000.00
2000–01	221,000.00

Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Navy ships have visited *(a)* Gibraltar and *(b)* Spain since 1 April. [6387]

Mr. Ingram: The following tables show which Royal Navy and (for completeness) Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships have visited Gibraltar and Spain since 1 April 2005 to date (22 June 2005).

Gibraltar

Port	*Ship*	*Arrival date*	*Departure date*
Gibraltar	RFA Fort Rosalie	4 March 2005	27 May 2005
Gibraltar	HMS Nottingham	31 March 2005	2 April 2005
Gibraltar	TIMS Invincible	6 April 2005	6 April 2005
Gibraltar	HMS Grafton	7 April 2005	8 April 2005
Gibraltar	HMS Enterprise	19 April 2005	20 April 2005
Gibraltar	RFA Orangeleaf	19 April 2005	28 April 2005
Gibraltar	HMS Manchester	21 April 2005	25 April 2005
Gibraltar	HMS Manchester	29 April 2005	2 May 2005
Gibraltar	HMS Scott	4 May 2005	9 May 2005
Gibraltar	RFA Sir Galahad	21 May 2005	29 May 2005
Gibraltar	RFA Black Rover	21 June 2005	Continuing

Spain

Port	*Ship*	*Arrival date*	*Departure date*
Barcelona	RFA Fort George	30 March 2005	4 April 2005
Palma	HMS Montrose	1 April 2005	5 April 2005
Barcelona	HMS Cardiff	17 April 2005	22 April 2005
Valencia	HMS Marlborough	19 April 2005	23 April 2005
Vigo	HMS Albion	22 April 2005	25 April 2005
El Ferrol	HMS Albion	26 April 2005	28 April 2005
Barcelona	HMS Chatham	5 May 2005	10 May 2005
Rota	RFA Fort Austin	9 May 2005	16 May 2005
Rota	RFA Fort Austin	18 May 2005	18 May 2005
Rota	HMS Cardiff	28 May 2005	31 May 2005
Vigo	HMS Ocean	28 May 2005	1 June 2005
Rota	HMS Cardiff	9 June 2005	11 June 2005
Rota	HMS Somerset	10 June 2005	14 June 2005
Rota	HMS Cardiff	11 June 2005	12 June 2005
Malaga	HMS Echo	22 June 2005	22 June 2005

International Criminal Court

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the application of the International Criminal Court Act 2001 to UK service personnel; and what his Department's policy is regarding bringing prosecutions under *(a)* this Act and *(b)* other military and civil law. [5160]

Mr. Ingram: It is an offence under the International Criminal Court Act 2001 to commit genocide, a crime against humanity, or a war crime. This applies to any person subject to UK Service jurisdiction, by any UK national, and by any UK resident. UK criminal courts and courts martial have jurisdiction over service personnel for offences under the Act.

Decisions on the prosecution of persons subject to UK service jurisdiction for any criminal offence are matters for the relevant independent prosecuting authorities.

Iraq

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many agency medical staff have been employed in Iraq since 1 June 2004; and at what cost. [4664]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2005]:* 11 agency medical staff have been employed by the MOD in Iraq since 1 June 2004 through two separate contracts. The total value of these two contracts to the Ministry of Defence since 1 June 2004 is £600,573. This figure includes agency staff that have been employed in other theatres of operation; to further breakdown this figure would breach commercial confidentiality.

Joint Combat Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service date is for the Joint Combat Aircraft. [3885]

Mr. Ingram: In-service dates for projects are not set until the main investment decision which is made when we have a clear understanding of the risks, contracting arrangements and robust estimates of cost and time. In the case of the Joint Combat Aircraft this will be the manufacture Main Gate decision point. Our internal planning assumptions are based on an ISD of 2014.

Minehunter Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the recovery of remote-controlled minehunter submarines in respect of *(a)* retrieval by the Royal Navy and *(b)* salvage payments to civilians who recover such units. [5557]

Mr. Ingram: The policy relating to the recovery of Royal Navy remote controlled mine hunting submersibles is the same as that for any other item of Royal Navy property lost at sea.

A cost/benefit assessment is carried out, covering issues such as public safety, environmental impact, technical probability of successful recovery, security, operational requirements and the cost of replacing the item. Depending on the outcome of this assessment, a salvage operation may be undertaken.

Salvage payments to civilians, other than those employed by the Ministry of Defence, who recover such items are generally dealt with in accordance with the guidelines set out in the London Salvage Convention 1989.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many remote-controlled minehunter submarines have been lost by the Royal Navy in each year since 1997; and what the cost has been. [5558]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally. However, records indicate that since 1997, remote-control mine disposal systems have been used on over 9,500 occasions by the Royal Navy. During this time, five systems have been reported as lost in the course of operations: one in 1998, one in 2003, one in 2004 and a further two in 2005. Two were permanently lost with replacement costs totalling some £778,000. Salvage payments for recovered units over the period amount to just over £50,000.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hon. Members have requested meetings with him since his appointment; and if he will list those he has met. [6615]

John Reid: Together with my ministerial colleagues, I have met many right hon. and hon. Members in the course of my duties as Secretary of State for Defence.

Naval Contingency Plans

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his contingency provisions are for each class of naval ship, in the event that any are unexpectedly put out of commission and need replacing; and if he will make a statement. [6012]

Mr. Ingram: No provision is made specifically for ship loss. In such an event, the requirement for a replacement ship would be considered alongside competing priorities for resources.

Newquay Airport

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will arrange a meeting with the hon. Member for North Cornwall and ministerial colleagues from the Department for Transport to discuss the future of Newquay Airport. [6217]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* I will write to the hon. Gentleman.

North Atlantic Council

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts following the meeting of the North Atlantic Council on 24 May; and if he will make a statement. [5906]

John Reid: I met many of my EU counterparts at the NATO ministerial meeting on 9–10 June, which discussed Darfur among other matters. In addition I have had general discussions with a number of my EU colleagues in recent weeks, including about Darfur.

Personnel and Training Command

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements will be made for other service units located at RAF Innsworth following the relocation of Personnel and Training Command to RAF High Wycombe. [6218]

Mr. Ingram: The RAF Innsworth site is home to an element of the Armed Forces Personnel Administrative Agency (AFPAA). AFPAA is conducting a separate investment appraisal into the options for their relocation from Innsworth. The result of this will not be known until at least the end of this year.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the ability of RAF High Wycombe to accommodate Personnel and Training Command staff; and what estimate has been made of the cost of changes needed to accommodate those personnel. [6244]

Mr. Ingram: A comprehensive study and investment appraisal has been carried out to assess the efficiencies and effectiveness of collocation which included the provision of office accommodation. The cost of changes required to working accommodation has been estimated at £2.6 million.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of staff in his Department have received training on the general and specific duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [3543]

Mr. Touhig: It is mandatory for all staff (both civilian and service) to attend Equality and Diversity training when they join the department and at regular intervals while in the department. The content of this training reflects the terms of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. Details are shown in the department's Race Equality Scheme annual publications at: http://www.mod.uk/issues/racial_equality/index.html

5,430 civilian staff attended the equality and diversity, equality and diversity for new managers and refresher training courses during the year 2004–05. The following tables show the breakdown by grade and ethnicity.

Table 1: Number of civilians attending equality and diversity training in 2004–05 by ethnicity

	Number of individuals	*Percentage of total*
Ethnic minorities	150	7.7
White	4,070	6.1
Not known	1,210	5.0
Total	5,430	6.6

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded individually and rounded totals may not be the sum of rounded values.
2. The percentage is of the average strength in that category during the year 2004–05.
3. Civilians from Trading Funds have been excluded from this table.

Table 2: Number of civilians attending equality and diversity training in 2004–05 by equivalent grade

	Number of individuals	*Percentage of total*
SCS or equivalent	20	6.2
Band B or equivalent	130	4.8
Band C or equivalent	1,270	7.3
Band D or equivalent	1,390	9.5
Band E or equivalent	2,010	6.6
Other non industrials	20	4.1
Skill zones or equivalent	600	3.8
Total	5,430	6.6

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded individually and rounded totals may not be the sum of rounded values.
2. The percentage of total is of the average strength in that category during the year 2004–05.
3. Civilians from Trading Funds have been excluded from this table. Figures for Service personnel are not held centrally and cannot be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

RAF Innsworth

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the site at RAF Innsworth. [6245]

Mr. Ingram: As part of the estate rationalisation work, Defence Estates will carefully examine any opportunities for alternative defence or public use of the Innsworth site. Unless an alternative defence use can be found, it is envisaged that the Innsworth site will close by the end of 2008 and be offered by Defence Estates for disposal.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what service units *(a)* are and *(b)* are planned to be co-located at RAF Innsworth. [6250]

Mr. Ingram: Together with RAF Innsworth, HQ Personnel and Training Command and an element of the Armed Forces Personnel Administrative Agency are located on the RAF Innsworth site. There are no plans for any other units to be collocated at RAF Innsworth.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget is for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary for 2005–06, broken down by *(a)* cost of running vessels at sea, *(b)* land based administration, *(c)* maintenance of ships and *(d)* other expenses; and if he will make a statement. [6168]

Mr. Ingram: CINC FLEET does not manage costs on the basis of platform types but on functions. The RFA does not therefore have a distinct, identifiable budget. However, the following indicative figures were used for planning purposes for the costs to FLEET and the DLO for 2005–06.

	£ million
(a) Cost of Running Vessels at Sea	
FLEET	
Direct Costs	134
Indirect Costs (Depreciation and cost of capital)	108
(b) Land Based Administration	
FLEET	9
DLO	4
(c) Maintenance of Ships	
DLO	60
(d) Other Expenses	
FLEET	
RFA Cadet Nautical School Training	1

Taxis

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6498]

Mr. Touhig: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Territorial Army

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will announce the changes to the Territorial Army under the future army structure. [6304]

Mr. Ingram: The future Territorial Army (TA) structure will ensure a more relevant, efficient and usable operational capability. There will be some adjustments to its capabilities to meet new requirements and ensure that it best supports the Regular Army on operations. These changes will provide TA manpower for new specialist areas, such as Intelligence, Engineers, Military Provost staff and Attack Helicopter support teams. The final structure is in the process of being worked through, in close consultation with the reserves community, and will be confirmed by the end of the year.

Uglow Farm, Edgworth

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his review of the proposed development at Uglow Farm, Edgworth, is complete. [5946]

Mr. Touhig: Yes. Following a joint review of the case by the Ministry of Defence and BAE Systems Warton, the objection to the proposed wind turbines at Uglow Farm has been lifted.

Blackburn and Darwen borough council and the developer have been informed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colonel Hamid Pourmand

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government are making to the Government of Iran on the trial on charges of apostasy of Colonel Hamid Pourmand. [6015]

Dr. Howells: We have pressed the Iranian authorities many times over Mr. Pourmand's detention, and called for his immediate release. European Union representatives raised his case most recently on 20 April, at our request. I understand that Mr. Pourmand continues to serve a three-year prison sentence for allegedly failing to inform his employers of his faith. Mr. Pourmand was acquitted of additional charges of apostasy on 28 May. According to press reports, the judge noted that he had received a large number of calls for these charges against Mr. Pourmand to be dropped. I will continue to follow his situation closely.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the south-east. [6256]

Mr. Straw: My Department is implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 450 jobs out of London, to Hanslope Park, Buckinghamshire, by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating other posts to relatively deprived areas in the south-east and other parts of the UK. So far, my department has not identified any post suitable for transfer to deprived areas in the south-east.

Diplomatic Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the makes of car used by *(a)* governors, *(b)* ambassadors and *(c)* consuls; and what his policy is on using UK-built cars. [6330]

Mr. Straw: Procurement of vehicles for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is based on achieving value for money, normally by competition and in a manner which conforms with appropriate UK regulations and EU directives. Within that approach, we prefer British missions abroad to buy British cars, where they are readily available and represent value for money.

The FCO has negotiated framework contracts with Jaguar, Land Rover and MG Rover. Currently 88 per cent. of our flag vehicles are built in the UK. A detailed listing of vehicles against the categories is shown in the following table.

	Embassies/ High commissions	*Consuls general*	*Governors*	*Total*
Land Rover	60	12	2	74
Toyota	6	2	1	9
Rover	10	6	1	17
Jaguar	48	23	—	71
BMW	3	4	—	7
Volvo	2	1	—	3
Mercedes	2	—	—	2
Rolls Royce	2	—	—	2
Chrysler	—	1	—	1
Cadillac	—	1	—	1

Jerusalem (Homes' Demolition)

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Israel on the proposed demolition of homes in the el-Bustan area of Silwan Village in East Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [6174]

Dr. Howells: We were disturbed to hear of plans by Israel to demolish 88 homes in Silwan in East Jerusalem. We raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities. We are encouraged to hear that there is now no intention to issue orders to demolish these homes.

Taliban

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the numeric strength of the Taliban in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan. [6789]

Dr. Howells: It is not easy to distinguish former Taliban and their sympathisers from other groups hostile to the current political process in Afghanistan. We believe that at any given time the number of former Taliban actively involved in insurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan is in the very low thousands. But the remoteness and geography of the Pakistani border region with Afghanistan, the difficulty of maintaining border controls, and the movement of people across the border, makes it difficult to give an accurate assessment.

HOME OFFICE

Assault

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of the existence of aggravating factors in an assault on the willingness of the prosecuting agency to prosecute. [5163]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Government have not conducted any research into the effects of aggravating factors in assaults on the willingness of prosecuting agencies to prosecute.

Asylum Accommodation Centres

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of *(a)* investigating the suitability of and *(b)* the planning process, including the cost of any public inquiries or

litigation when relevant, in respect of each site that Government consider for accommodation centres for asylum seekers. [5813]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available in the form requested. It could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many automatic number plate recognition readers are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned, broken down by police authority. [3958]

Paul Goggins: The total number of current, and planned, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) readers is not collated by the Home Office and is a matter for individual police forces and their partners.

Drugs Offences (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with possession of *(a)* class A, *(b)* class B and *(c)* class C drugs in each London borough in each of the last five years. [5272]

Paul Goggins: The information on charging for these offences is not centrally available.

EU Presidency

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what communication activities are planned in relation to the policy areas covered by his Department during the UK presidency of the EU; and what budget has been allocated for these activities. [1645]

Andy Burnham: External communications activity for the UK presidency of the EU is being coordinated centrally by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Within the Home Office external communications activity has been provided for by existing budgets for EU work and no additional budget agreed. External communications work for the presidency will include media handling around JHA councils, the JHA informal, smaller Home Office presidency seminars and events on themes such as resettlement, new detection technology, e-borders and the safe use of the internet, and joint seminars with other agencies. The Home Office and the Department for Constitutional Affairs will join together to make a short video outlining justice and home affairs presidency priorities.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals of *(a)* immigration, *(b)* asylum and *(c)* naturalisation cases to the immigration and nationality directorate by hon. Members there have been in each year since 2001, broken down by constituency. [2522]

Mr. McNulty: During the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2004 the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) received 109,331 letters from Members of Parliament about case-related asylum, immigration and nationality matters. These included both letters sent for ministerial reply and those to which replies were sent by officials. The breakdown by constituency is given in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Managed Migration Directorate

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the letter of 28 April to the hon. Member for Aylesbury from NCC5 of the managed migration directorate, whether case S1081532 has now been allocated to a caseworker; and when he expects the applicant to be notified of the decision. [4257]

Mr. McNulty: This case is under consideration in the immigration and nationality directorate (IND). The circumstances of the case are not straightforward and it is likely to be some weeks before a decision can be made.

Micro Bikes

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidences of "micro" or "pocket" bikes being ridden illegally on-road there have been in each year since 2002; and how many of those incidences related to underage riders; [3886]

(2) how many successful prosecutions for the illegal riding of "pocket" or "micro" bikes there have been in each year since 2002, broken down by region. [3887]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to identify those offences relating to the use of "pocket" or "micro" bikes from the data collected on the Home Office court proceedings database or by recorded crime.

Olufemi Ojemuyiwa

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress of the application by Olufemi Ojemuyiwa, reference A1194808, for indefinite leave to stay in the United Kingdom. [6147]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* It is our usual practice only to disclose information about an individual's immigration case to his or her constituency MP.

Shooting

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fatalities were caused as a result of the shooting of foxes and ground game at night in each of the past five years. [6053]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Voluntary/Community Activity

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made towards the public service agreement target of increasing voluntary and community activity, including increased community participation, by 5 per cent. by 2006. [3224]

Paul Goggins: Voluntary and community sector organisations have a crucial role to play in the reinvigoration of civic life and it is important that people are given more opportunities and support to become

actively involved in their communities. Performance against the Home Department's targets is published in the annual report and the autumn performance report available at the House Library and on the Home Office website (www.homeoffice.gov.uk). The Home Office annual report for 2004–05 with the latest performance information was published on 20 June 2005.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Addiction

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been provided for addiction *(a)* treatment and *(b)* rehabilitation in the Province in each of the last 10 years. [5333]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested on funding for drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation is not available centrally.

In relation to rehabilitation, this is an integral part of all drug and alcohol treatment whether community or inpatient based. The cost of this generic rehabilitation cannot be disaggregated from the total costs of such programmes. The majority of drug rehabilitation can and does take place in the community as part of an overall community care and rehabilitation programme and provision exists within each board area to refer individuals to residential rehabilitation centres outside Northern Ireland if deemed to be clinically appropriate.

I will write to the hon. Lady with the information as soon as it is received from health and social services boards.

Education and Library Board Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will provide additional funding to the South Eastern Education and Library Board to enable it to reverse its recent announcement of cuts to school crossing patrol services within its catchment area. [3488]

Angela E. Smith: Further to my answer about the change in funding for Education and Library Board services for 2005–06 of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 848W, I can also advise that boards have significant flexibility in deciding how to use resources allocated to them and, therefore, the decision to reduce the number of crossing patrols in the South Eastern Board is an operational matter for the Board.

I am assured by the Board that school crossing patrols have only been removed in a small number of areas, and that, in all cases, the Board is satisfied that removal of the service does not jeopardise the safety of children.

Freedom of Information Act

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and *(b)* NHS personnel in the Province have been employed on processing requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since 1 January 2005. [5329]

Mr. Woodward: In *(a)* the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety 32 staff, and in *(b)* Health and Personnel Social Services bodies 214 staff, have been involved in processing requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since 1 January 2005. Information is not available on the precise amount of time spent on processing freedom of information requests but it represents only a small proportion of the total working time of the staff involved.

Internet

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each Education and Library Board area in Northern Ireland have access to the internet. [5517]

Angela E. Smith: The percentage of schools with internet access is as follows:

Percentage

Education and Library Board	*Primary*	*Secondary*
Belfast	96.9	100
Western	99.5	100
North-Eastern	99.5	100
South-Eastern	99.4	100
Southern	100	100

NHS Staff (Attacks)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in meeting targets for reducing attacks on NHS staff in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [6678]

Mr. Woodward: There are no specific targets set for reducing attacks on Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) staff. HPSS employers have been instructed to take measures to minimise the risk of violent attacks against staff. Figures reported for the six months from October 2004 to March 2005 indicate a reduction in the number of reported incidents; 149 fewer than in the previous six months. This indicates that the steps taken by HPSS employers are having a positive effect.

Nurse Recruitment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress is being made in re-recruiting former nurses to the NHS in Northern Ireland. [5511]

Mr. Woodward: The recruitment of staff, including nurses, is a matter for individual Health and Social Services Trusts taking into account factors such as service needs and available resources. The Department however support former nurses, who have not practised for five years or more, to return to work by funding "Return to Practice" programmes.

Parades

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to be in a position to report on whether parades which *(a)* took place and *(b)* will take place on the basis of technically incorrect uncompleted 11/1 forms are legal. [5961]

Mr. Woodward: The decision on whether any particular 11/1 form does not meet the requirements of Section 6 of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, and that therefore those involved in organising and participating in that parade have committed an offence and should be prosecuted, is one for the Public Prosecutions Service, following consideration of the findings of a police investigation into any potential offences.

The Parades Commission has said that it is determined to do its part to minimise contention and therefore to use as much flexibility as the legislation allows to ensure that the parading season passes off peaceably. To that end the Commission will whenever possible make determinations on those few contentious parades where it is involved.

Porphyria

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals in the Province suffer from each of the forms of porphyria. [5353]

Mr. Woodward: Information on the number of individuals in the Province suffering from each form of porphyria is not available centrally.

Information is available on the number of sufferers admitted to hospital. According to the hospital inpatients system, 12 sufferers were admitted to hospital in 2003–04. Seven were diagnosed with "Torphyria cutanea tarda" and four were diagnosed with "other porphyria". One person was diagnosed with both of these conditions.

Pupil Suspensions

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils were suspended from *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools for (i) bullying, (ii) violence towards teaching staff and (iii) carrying offensive weapons in each of the last three years, broken down by Board area. [6572]

Angela E. Smith: The reasons for suspension were first collected in 2002–03 school year and relate to the number of individual suspensions not the number of pupils suspended. The reason for a suspension is categorised by a school into one of 10 possibilities and these do not include carrying an offensive weapon.

The information on relevant individual suspensions for 2002–03 school year is as follows:

	Bullying of a pupil		*Physical attack on staff*		*Verbal abuse of staff*	
Board area	*Primary*	*Post primary*	*Primary*	*Post primary*	*Primary*	*Post primary*
BELB	4	47	18	52	23	353
WELB	1	43	16	71	13	350
NEELB	12	52	30	60	25	418
SEELB	1	55	10	43	10	350
SELB	1	60	4	29	8	426

The detailed suspension data for 2003–04 submitted by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) has still to be fully analysed. When this has been done in the near future, I will write to the hon. Member and provide the SELB statistics. The four-board information for 2003–04 school year is as follows:

	Bullying of a pupil		*Physical attack on staff*		*Verbal abuse of staff*	
Board area	*Primary*	*Post primary*	*Primary*	*Post primary*	*Primary*	*Post primary*
BELB	9	55	21	36	28	427
WELB	6	58	20	40	27	453
NEELB	14	68	13	35	15	499
SEELB	0	44	4	54	8	323
SELB	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available

Regional Cancer Centre

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress on the regional cancer centre becoming fully operational. [5332]

Mr. Woodward: The cancer centre construction programme is on schedule for completion by 31 December 2005. The official handover of the building and installed equipment to the Belfast City Hospital Trust is planned for the beginning of January 2006. It is proposed that the transfer of all patients, staff and services will take place in March 2006.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress in securing staff to work in the Province's new regional cancer centre. [5341]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has made available additional revenue resources through the health boards over the last few years to enable the Belfast City Hospital Trust to build up the staff complement in preparation for the opening of the cancer centre. The trust has not experienced any difficulties filling these posts.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Loan Sharks

9. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what action he is taking to protect vulnerable people from loan sharks; [6523]

11. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (2) what steps he is taking to protect vulnerable people from loan sharks. [6526]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are funding pilot projects in Birmingham and Glasgow to tackle loan sharks. This will enable Trading Standards to investigate and prosecute illegal lenders in these areas. It will also help gain a clearer understanding of the scope, extent and impact of illegal money lending. The project is already showing results with prosecutions in progress in both areas.

Gas Supplies

10. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the UK's future gas needs. [6525]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make a report on security of supply to Parliament in July. This will include an assessment of the UK's future gas needs, updating the information given in the most recent report of the Joint Energy Security of Supply Group, published in November of last year.

Coal Mining

12. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what financial support he made available for the deep coal mine industry in 2004–05; and how much such support he has made available in the 2005–06 financial year. [6527]

Malcolm Wicks: Some £21.4 million of Coal Investment Aid was paid to UK deep mines in 2004–05.

A further £35.7 million remains available, of which we expect to pay claims of about £24 million in 2005–06.

Nuclear Power

13. **Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of nuclear power in the UK. [6528]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right Hon. Friend the Secretary of State so moments ago to the hon. Members for Hexham and Tomes.

Windfarms

14. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to support new and emerging renewable technologies other than onshore windfarms. [6529]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are providing just over £500 million of support between 2002–08 to help develop emerging renewable and low carbon technologies. This will take the form of spending on R and D and funding for capital grants. Onshore wind is not eligible for capital grants, except in the case of small community schemes supported under Clear Skies.

Funding includes grants of £117 million for offshore wind, over £60 million for energy crops and biomass, £31 million for PV, £12.5 million for community schemes and as announced last year, £50 million for the setting up of a Marine Renewables Deployment Fund.

On 14 June, I announced a £40 million—four year funding package to support demonstrations of carbon abatement technologies (£25 million) and hydrogen and fuel cell technologies (£15 million).

Total public expenditure on research and development for renewable energy sources for 2003–04 was estimated at over £29 million.

15. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has received on the *(a)* benefits and *(b)* disadvantages of wind farms as a renewable energy source; and if he will make a statement. [6530]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department receives a great many representations regarding wind farms setting out both the advantages and disadvantages of specific wind farm projects.

Equal Opportunities Commission

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims of *(a)* racial discrimination, *(b)* sexual discrimination, *(c)* disability discrimination and *(d)* multiple discrimination have been made by staff of the Equal Opportunities Commission against the commission in each of the last 10 years. [6531]

Meg Munn: The EOC have had three claims for sex discrimination brought against them by staff in the past 10 years. These have been in 1998, 2000 and 2001. No other claims have been made.

Renewable Energy

17. **Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for job creation from the steps the Government is taking to promote renewable energy. [6532]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI's Renewables 2010 Target Team conducted a detailed survey of job opportunities in the renewable energy sector in 2003. The Renewables Supply Chain Gap Analysis estimated that up to 8,000 people are currently employed in this industry, with the potential for this to rise to around 35,000 over the longer term.

Hotelware Exports

18. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the World Trade Organisation on reducing tariffs on exports of hotelware to the USA. [6533]

Ian Pearson: US tariffs on imports of hotelware will be addressed in the negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products currently taking place at the World Trade Organisation as part of Doha

Development Agenda. In these talks the EU maintains regular contact with other WTO members including the US.

Manufacturing Support

19. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support the Government is making available for manufacturing industry in *(a)* the City of Durham and *(b)* England. [6534]

Alun Michael: Since the Manufacturing Strategy was implemented in 2002 the Government has made available a wide range of support to improve the performance of manufacturing industry.

(a) Businesses in the City of Durham are eligible to apply for a range of Department of Trade and Industry assistance schemes including Selective Finance for Investment and Grant for Research and Development. The Regional Development Agency, One NorthEast is funding several initiatives, including new business parks, which will provide modern facilities for new and manufacturing businesses. In addition The North East Productivity Alliance (NEPA) has successfully assisted a number of individuals and companies to enhance engineering expertise leading to significant productivity improvements.

(b) In England we have set up a Manufacturing Advisory Service in every region and supported the establishment of 14 Industry Forum organisations. We have doubled support for science and innovation so that businesses may draw on the strong UK science base for commercial advantage and have simplified business support into four themes reflecting the areas in which companies are most likely to need help: innovation, best practice, raising finance and regional investment.

Average Pay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of average full-time workers' pay in the South West Region in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency. [2838]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Adrian Sanders, dated 21 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning average full time workers' pay in the South West region in the last year for which figures are available: broken down by *(a)* Local Authority area and *(b)* Parliamentary Constituency. I am replying in his absence. (2838)

Average earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay was unaffected by absence during the pay period, by their place of work. This is the standard definition used for Annual Survey of Hours and Earning tables. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings does not collect data on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I am placing in the House of Commons Library, tables showing the average gross weekly earnings for full time employees in the South West region broken down by Local Authority and Parliamentary Constituency. This data is also available on the National Statistics website on tables 7 and 9 respectively: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13290&More=n

The ASHE, carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It has a one per cent sample of all employees.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings publication criteria ensure that all estimates are undisclosive. A number of estimates have been removed from the published tables for these reasons.

Table 1: Mean and median weekly pay, including overtime, for full-time employees in the South West Government Office Region, 2004

		Weekly pay including overtime				
	Jobs (thousand)	CV (percentage)[1]	Median	CV (percentage)[1]	Mean	CV (percentage)[1]
South West	1,332	[2]1.2	393.0	[2]1.0	462.7	[2]0.8

Table 2: Mean and median weekly pay, including overtime, for full-time employees in South West Parliamentary Constituencies, 2004

		Weekly pay including overtime				
	Jobs (thousand)	CV (percentage)[1]	Median	CV (percentage)[1]	Mean	CV (percentage)[1]
Bath	40	[2]7.2	416.5	[2]6.8	476.8	[2]4.3
Bournemouth East	14	[2]12.1	293.8	[2]10.0	377.5	[2]7.2
Bournemouth West	26	[2]8.8	334.3	[2]7.5	416.3	[2]5.7
Bridgwater	21	[2]9.7	358.5	[2]8.9	446.0	[2]6.9
Bristol East	58	[2]6.0	429.5	[2]5.7	508.8	[2]3.2
Bristol North West	49	[2]6.3	500.1	[2]4.8	561.2	[2]3.4
Bristol South	20	[2]10.3	383.7	[2]10.0	425.7	[2]4.8
Bristol West	53	[2]6.1	444.4	[2]6.0	515.8	[2]3.8
Cheltenham	29	[2]8.4	428.1	[2]8.1	548.0	[2]7.9
Christchurch	21	[2]9.9	429.0	[2]7.9	486.9	[2]5.5
Cotswold	20	[2]9.9	422.1	[2]10.0	473.3	[2]5.3
Devizes	19	[2]9.9	355.5	[2]8.2	418.9	[2]5.9
East Devon	10	[2]13.9	355.8	[2]11.0	386.0	[2]6.4
Exeter	58	[2]5.9	411.9	[2]5.1	449.1	[2]3.0
Falmouth and Camborne	18	[2]10.6	320.5	[2]7.4	367.4	[2]4.4
Forest of Dean	16	[2]11.8	380.6	[2]8.1	481.9	[2]13.0
Gloucester	42	[2]7.0	416.9	[2]7.2	469.9	[2]3.7
Kingswood	16	[2]11.2	433.3	[2]8.9	487.6	[2]6.2

Table 2: Mean and median weekly pay, including overtime, for full-time employees in South West Parliamentary Constituencies, 2004

			Weekly pay including overtime			
	Jobs (thousand)	CV (percentage)[1]	Median	CV (percentage)[1]	Mean	CV (percentage)[1]
Mid Dorset and North Poole	13	[2]12.4	305.5	[2]16.0	401.3	[2]6.4
North Cornwall	22	[2]9.9	325.9	[2]11.0	384.5	[2]5.8
North Devon	22	[2]9.3	342.9	[2]6.9	449.3	[2]7.5
North Dorset	22	[2]9.7	386.9	[2]10.0	429.7	[2]4.2
North Swindon	27	[2]8.6	430.5	[2]6.3	516.5	[2]5.3
North Wiltshire	28	[2]8.4	432.6	[2]7.3	522.8	[2]6.2
Northavon	38	[2]7.2	399.1	[2]7.9	503.2	[illegible]
Plymouth, Devonport	25	[2]8.8	412.2	[2]6.9	470.0	[2]4.9
Plymouth, Sutton	35	[2]7.5	406.3	[2]7.3	456.4	[2]3.8
Poole	32	[2]7.7	420.2	[2]7.7	529.4	[2]5.2
Salisbury	32	[2]7.8	380.2	[2]7.2	432.0	[2]4.0
Somerton and Frome	20	[2]10.0	356.3	[2]6.6	422.6	[2]5.2
South Dorset	18	[2]10.6	325.7	[2]11.0	390.3	[2]5.0
South East Cornwall	14	[2]11.6	338.4	[2]11.0	382.2	[2]5.7
South Swindon	56	[2]5.9	474.0	[2]5.2	560.9	[2]4.1
South West Devon	18	[2]10.3	358.8	[2]7.7	407.4	[2]5.2
St. Ives	13	[2]12.5	310.5	[2]12.0	378.1	[2]8.2
Stroud	22	[2]9.7	394.2	[2]6.4	434.8	[2]4.8
Taunton	36	[2]7.3	376.7	[2]7.0	424.1	[2]3.3
Teignbridge	20	[2]9.8	355.7	[2]9.4	374.5	[2]4.1
Tewkesbury	26	[2]8.6	414.5	[2]5.1	478.8	[2]5.1
Tiverton and Honiton	22	[2]9.4	370	[2]7.8	414.7	[2]4.8
Torbay	19	[2]10.6	325.5	[2]8.6	416.9	[2]7.5
Torridge and West Devon	16	[2]11.1	326.5	[2]11	363.4	[2]5.4
Totnes	14	[2]12.1	328	[2]8.6	367.9	[2]5.5
Truro and St. Austell	31	[2]8	347.8	[2]5.9	419.1	[2]5.6
Wansdyke	15	[2]11.8	365.8	[2]12	448	[2]6.8
Wells	21	[2]9.8	351.3	[2]8.5	420.5	[2]5.2
West Dorset	26	[2]9.3	373.6	[2]7.7	424.5	[2]4.3
Westbury	26	[2]8.8	370.4	[2]9.3	448.9	[2]6.2
Weston-Super-Mare	18	[2]10.8	356	[2]12	413.7	[2]5.3
Woodspring	26	[2]8.7	462.5	[2]6.8	566.3	[2]8.9
Yeovil	34	[2]7.6	410.5	[2]7.4	472.1	[2]4

Table 3: Mean and median weekly pay, including overtime, for full-time employees in South West local authorities, 2004

			Weekly pay including overtime			
	Jobs (thousand)	CV (percentage)[1]	Median	CV (percentage)[1]	Mean	CV (percentage)[1]
Bath and North East Somerset UA	53	[2]6.2	405.8	[2]6.3	472.0	[2]3.8
Bristol, City of UA	149	[2]3.7	429.4	[2]4.2	498.0	[2]2.1
North Somerset UA	44	[2]6.8	423.7	[2]6.0	503.7	[2]6.2
South Gloucestershire UA	85	[2]4.8	453.9	[2]4.6	533.7	[2]3.1
Plymouth UA	68	[2]5.3	401.7	[2]4.9	453.0	[2]2.8
Torbay UA	24	[2]9.3	325.4	[2]7.8	399.7	[2]6.3
Bournemouth UA	39	[2]7.1	330.1	[2]6.1	402.7	[2]4.5
Poole UA	42	[2]6.8	405.2	[2]7.2	501.1	[2]4.5
Swindon UA	82	[2]4.9	457.5	[2]4.1	546.7	[2]3.3
Cornwall	98	[2]4.5	329.5	[2]4.0	391.3	[2]2.8
Caradon	11	[2]13.3	324.0	[2]13.0	372.2	[2]6.5
Carrick	26	[2]8.8	333.7	[2]8.0	422.7	[2]6.5
Kerrier	16	[2]11.1	335.8	[2]8.3	399.7	[2]6.2
North Cornwall	17	[2]11.6	328.6	[2]11.0	369.9	[2]5.9
Penwith	8	[2]15.8	298.2	[2]12.0	346.0	[2]8.5
Restormel	21	[2]9.7	336.1	[2]7.1	391.6	[2]5.6
Isles of Scilly	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon	166	[2]3.4	367.5	[2]3.0	418.7	[2]1.9
East Devon	21	[2]9.5	375.3	[2]7.3	419.2	[2]4.9
Exeter	58	[2]5.9	411.9	[2]5.1	449.1	[2]3.0
Mid Devon	11	[2]13.5	339.1	[2]11.0	377.8	[2]5.8
North Devon	22	[2]9.4	342.8	[2]7.0	451.5	[2]7.6
South Hams	15	[2]11.3	332.7	[2]9.2	396.3	[2]6.0
Teignbridge	23	[2]9.3	356.6	[2]7.9	385.4	[2]4.0
Torridge	11	[2]13.7	304.5	[2]16.0	358.2	[2]7.3
West Devon	6	[2]18.4	360.0	[2]14.0	373.9	[2]6.7
Dorset	89	[2]4.8	382.0	[2]4.1	432.5	[2]2.4
Christchurch	13	[2]12.8	435.7	[2]11.0	503.2	[2]7.3
East Dorset	19	[2]10.4	431.9	[2]9.8	461.9	[2]4.9
North Dorset	11	[2]13.2	346.0	[2]12.0	386.7	[2]5.6

Table 3: Mean and median weekly pay, including overtime, for full-time employees in South West local authorities, 2004

			Weekly pay including overtime			
	Jobs (thousand)	*CV (percentage)*[1]	*Median*	*CV (percentage)*[1]	*Mean*	*CV (percentage)*[1]
Purbeck	9	[2]14.7	354.4	[2]14.0	429.6	[2]7.3
West Dorset	26	[2]9.3	372.1	[2]7.8	422.8	[2]4.3
Weymouth and Portland	11	[2]13.6	310.7	[2]12.0	369.4	[2]6.1
Gloucestershire	156	[2]3.6	410.5	[2]2.7	482.6	[2]2.7
Cheltenham	32	[2]8.0	426.4	[2]6.6	540.1	[2]7.3
Cotswold	17	[2]10.7	410.4	[2]10.0	468.5	[2]5.8
Forest of Dean	16	[2]12.0	379.9	[2]8.3	484.5	[2]13.0
Gloucester	42	[2]7	416.9	[2]7.2	469.9	[2]3.7
Stroud	25	[2]9.2	404.9	[2]6	442.2	[2]4.6
Tewkesbury	24	[2]9.1	415.9	[2]5.5	478.8	[2]5.4
Somerset	132	[2]3.8	377.9	[2]3.5	439.2	[2]2.1
Mendip	21	[2]9.7	364.4	[2]7.1	432.8	[2]5.3
Sedgemoor	22	[2]9.5	348.4	[2]8.8	428.8	[2]6.4
South Somerset	46	[2]6.4	394	[2]6.3	455.8	[2]3.4
Taunton Deane	36	[2]7.3	376.6	[2]7	424.8	[2]3.3
West Somerset	6	[2]18.1	[4]—	[2]24	458.8	[2]13
Wiltshire	105	[2]4.3	389.5	[2]4.3	458.4	[2]2.9
Kennet	13	[2]11.9	355.6	[2]9.4	416.7	[2]7.7
North Wiltshire	30	[2]8.1	429.9	[2]7	514.7	[2]5.9
Salisbury	33	[2]7.8	379.1	[2]7.6	431	[2]4
West Wiltshire	30	[2]8.2	370.9	[2]8.2	450.8	[2]5.6

[1] Coefficient of Variation—measure of the deviation of a variable from its mean.
[2] Key to quality:
CV < = 5 per cent.
CV > 5 per cent. and < = 10 per cent.
CV > 10 per cent. and < = 20 per cent.
[3] = not applicable
[4] = unreliable
. = unavailable
.. = disclosive
- = nil or negligible
Notes:
(a) The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, (ASHE), carried out in April of each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a 1 per cent. sample of all employees.
(b) The ASHE replaces the New Earnings Survey (NES) from October 2004. The main difference between the ASHE and NES being that estimates are weighted to population totals from the Labour Force Survey.
(c) Average gross weekly earnings for Adult Full-Time Employees whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

The tables provide means and medians for full-time employees in the South West, South West local authorities and South West parliamentary constituencies.

Coal Health Claims

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has made to the Coal Authority about its website directing coal health claimants to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. [2519]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 June 2005]:* The Department were unaware that the Coal Authority website directed former miners to the UDM. We have now asked the Authority to change the site, directing claimants to contact their legal representative, if they already have a claim submitted, and, if they have not already submitted a claim, to contact a local solicitor, their former union or their local citizens' advice bureau for specific advice on their eligibility to claim.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been paid in total to solicitors for unsuccessful claims under the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger miners' compensation scheme. [6106]

Malcolm Wicks: Solicitors costs have only been paid in relation to claims in which compensation has been paid to the claimant.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action his Department have taken as a consequence of receiving information about Indiclaim Ltd. and Walker and Co. Claims Management. [6109]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is aware of concerns relating to the two companies. However, we cannot comment on ongoing [illegible]

Corporate Social [illegible]bility

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much his Department has spent on corporate social responsibility initiatives since January 2003; and if he will make a statement. [6233]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI spend on Corporate Social Responsibility for relevant financial years is as follows:

	£
2003–04	330,000
2004–05	369,000
2005–06	[1]91,000

[1] To date.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what definition of corporate social responsibility his Department uses; and if he will make a statement. [6241]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's website on Corporate Social Responsibility—www.csr.gov.uk—sets out the definition which we use for CSR which is about how business takes account of its economic, social and environmental impacts in the way it operates.

Departmental Name

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which external organisations were involved in the proposal to change the name of his Department. [1086]

Alan Johnson: None.

Departmental Payment Performance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the overall payment performance was of each Government Department in the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [6017]

Alan Johnson: The overall payment performance of Government Departments has increased over the last three years for which figures are available, from 95.86 per cent. in 2000–01 to 96.68 per cent. in 2003–04, as the following table illustrates. Figures for 2004–05 have not yet been published.

The Government takes this issue very seriously, and is committed to improving the payment culture in the UK, in order to create fair and stable business transactions. The Government's own payment performance is an important element in this policy.

	Percentage paid on time		
Comparison of main departments in alphabetical order	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Cabinet Office (OPS)	95.15	96.21	97.79
Central Office of Information	—	—	95.54
Charity Commission	91.1	98.24	97.49
Crown Prosecution Service	93.69	90.42	80.55
Defence Bills Agency (Ministry of Defence)	100	100.00	100.00
DEFRA	86.99	91.43	94.61
Department for Constitutional Affairs (Lord Chancellor's Department)	95.14	95.43	91.43
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	99.05	99.09	99.34
Department for Education and Skills	95.09	94.52	95.43
Department for International Development	96.62	96.52	96.26
Department for National Savings and Investments	96.9	94.43	92.14
Department for Transport	—	91.96	94.87
Department of Health	94.97	94.46	95.88
Department of Trade and Industry	97.68	97.20	93.60
DTLR	98.28	—	—
Department of Work and Pensions	93.01	92.30	94.96
Electoral Commission	—	97.84	94.86
Export Credit Guarantee Department	97.94	98.76	98.72
Food Standards Agency	93.88	96.00	96.33
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	96.39	92.46	97.95
Forestry Commission	96.73	96.75	96.26
Government Actuary's Department	98.57	99.17	66.64
Government Communications HQ	—	83.98	90.08
Health and Safety Executive	98.86	98.95	98.85
HM Customs and Excise	97.38	98.13	98.60
HM Treasury	98.74	84.06	80.91
Home Office	94.58	88.64	89.90
Inland Revenue	98.90	99.35	99.07
Land Registry	99.07	99.21	89.13
National Investment and Loans Office	100	—	—
Northern Ireland Court Service	—	96.23	97.32
Northern Ireland Office	93.81	85.16	86.23
Office for Government Commerce	93.29	96.28	99.97
Office for National Statistics	98.30	97.97	98.12
Office for Standards in Education	88.61	94.76	94.09
Office of Fair Trading	92.65	94.20	96.51
Office of Gas and Electricity Mkts (OFGEM)	87.72	89.54	99.30
Office of Telecommunications	99.30	99.21	—
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	—	96.72	98.14
Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and Health Service Commissioners	—	96.88	—
Office of the Rail Regulator	98.71	95.69	88.01
Office of Water Services (OFWAT)	99.45	99.72	99.43
Ordnance Survey	97.84	97.53	97.11
Privy Council Office	99.70	100.00	100.00
Registers of Scotland Executive Agency	—	—	99.73
Royal Mint	88.25	90.57	91.39
Scotland Office (Department for Constitutional Affairs)	99.51	92.24	96.84
Serious Fraud Office	91.29	92.77	92.28
The National Archives (Public Records Office)	99.14	99.17	99.26
UK Trade and Investment	—	—	88.80
Treasury Solicitors Department	96.50	98.13	92.62
Wales Office	86.67	88.48	96.03
Overall Total	95.86	95.04	96.68

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6267]

Alan Johnson: None of the Department's posts have been relocated from London to deprived areas of the South East in the recent past and there are no such posts under consideration for such relocation at the present time.

Domestic Energy Costs

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the relative external costs per kWh consumed by domestic use of *(a)* coal, *(b)* oil, *(c)* gas, *(d)* electricity and *(e)* liquified petroleum gas. [6112]

Malcolm Wicks: Figures on the cost per kWh of the above fuels are either available from the DTI or from Salkent's Comparative Heating Costs publication. The prices, sources and time period they correspond to are given in the following table.

	Price (p/kWh)	*Time period data refers to*	*Source*
a. Coal	15.6	May 2005	DTI estimates based on Salkent data
b. Heating oil	22.2	May 2005	DTI estimates based on Salkent data

	Price (p/kWh)	Time period data refers to	Source
c. Gas	1.7	January 2005	DTI
d. Electricity	7.4	January 2005	DTI
e. LPG	33.3	May 2005	DTI estimates based on Salkent data

[1] DTI data for April 2005 will be published in the June edition of Quarterly Energy Prices, due out on 30 June 2005.
[2] The base Salkent data is contained in their Comparative Heating Costs publication, May 2005 edition and corresponds to May 2005. The Comparative Heating Costs have been published since 1976 and are widely used as a guide to the running cost of space and water heating using alternative fuels at current prices.

ECGD

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 79W, on Export Credits Guarantee Department, when he expects to reach a settlement with the plaintiffs. [6183]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 June 2005]*: Given that the parties are at the early stages of the detailed costs assessment process, ECGD is not currently in a position to forecast with certainty when settlement is likely to be reached.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 78W, on Export Credits Guarantee Department, when he expects the ECGD Pilot Trading Fund to be undertaken. [6184]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 June 2005]*: ECGD will undertake a process of continual review of the operation of the pilot trading fund. This will feed into my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's consideration and a final decision is expected in the second year of the pilot period, towards the end of 2006 or early 2007.

European Space Policy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures have been agreed in June 2005 to develop a European Space Policy. [5212]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Space Policy (ESP) is being developed jointly by the EU and the European Space Agency (ESA) as the framework for managing space activities. The legal basis is Article 8 of the EC—ESA Framework Agreement. On 7 June the second of three EU/ESA Ministerial Space Councils approved an Orientations Paper on priorities. The UK Government has instilled a user/applications focus in it. Funding decisions will follow from the normal EU and ESA budgetary processes.

Gas Turbines

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what capacity of combined cycle gas turbines has been contracted for the period 2004–05 to 2010–11; and what percentage he estimates will be commissioned by 2012. [4963]

Malcolm Wicks: Details of contracted generation, under various scenarios, can be found in National Grid's 2005 Seven Year Statement, and in particular Tables 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, depending on the scenario utilised: http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/library/documents/sys05/default.asp?action=mnch5_2.htm&Node=SYS&Snode=5_2&Exp=Y#Plant_Margins_On_Different_Generation_Backgrounds

Loan Sharks

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to protect vulnerable people from loan sharks. [6524]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are funding pilot projects in Birmingham and Glasgow to tackle loan sharks. This will enable Trading Standards to investigate and prosecute illegal lenders in these areas. It will also help gain a clearer understanding of the scope, extent and impact of illegal money lending. The project is already showing results with prosecutions in progress in both areas.

Miners' Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many cases have been submitted under the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and Vendside agreement for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger in each year since 1999. [6122]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 June 2005]*: The number of cases received under the Union of Democratic Mineworkers/Vendside agreement are as follows:

	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease[1]	Vibration white finger
1999	2,841	4,595
2000	6,418	10,422
2001	4,740	5,137
2002	4,123	5,747
2003	5,648	451
2004	3,916	24
2005	0	1
Total claims	27,686	26,377

[1] Claim receipts are those claims that are fully registered, i.e. excludes pool of claims accepted with minimum data, awaiting further information to permit cross referencing and duplicate checks prior to full registration.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department expects to agree compensation for miners who were engaged in salvage work at Firbeck colliery for less than six weeks in 1968. [6727]

Malcolm Wicks: Salvage work is not an occupation on the list contained in the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Claims Handling Agreement (CHA) as agreed between the Department and the claimants' representatives.

As a non-CHA occupation the dust exposure and relevant job factor for salvage workers have been assessed by the jointly appointed Dust Reference Panel. Salvage workers who were employed prior to the closure of collieries were incorporated into the dust model calculator in December 2003. For salvage workers who worked in collieries post closure, the model was amended earlier this year and is currently being tested.

Ministerial Visits

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which Ministers from his Department will be attending the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition in September. [3943]

Malcolm Wicks: No DTI Ministers have as yet been invited to attend the 2005 Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Classroom Behaviour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assistance her Department is giving to schools in Coventry South constituency to promote good behaviour in the classroom. [6132]

Jacqui Smith: Our secondary strategy gives all secondary schools in Coventry access to high-quality behaviour management training materials and support from a DfES-funded behaviour management consultant. Our primary strategy is giving all primary schools access to high-quality training and curriculum materials to improve children's social, emotional and behavioural skills.

In addition:

Our Excellence in Cities programme provides Coventry with extra funding (£3.2 million this year), about half of which can be used to fund Learning Mentors and Learning Support Units to support pupils with challenging behaviour and their schools. Seven of the current EiC schools are in Coventry South. All the secondary schools in the constituency will benefit from EiC funding from this September.

Our Behaviour Improvement Programme provides Coventry with further additional funding (£1.5 million this year) to support selected schools facing the greatest behaviour challenges. Three of these schools are in the Coventry South constituency.

Connexions Service

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received on the winding up of the Connexions Service; and what her responses to those representations have been. [5943]

Maria Eagle: Following speculation in the press about the future of the Connexions Service, my Department have received a number of letters in support of Connexions from young people, Connexions personal advisers, Connexions chief executives and board members, MPs and many other professionals. Some of these letters have resulted in discussions with a Minister or senior officials.

My Department's response have been to acknowledge the success of Connexions, while recognising that a report by the National Audit Office published in March 2004 found that it was not clear what the roles of schools and Connexions were in providing careers advice and guidance to young people. We have also recognised that there are multiple and overlapping initiatives for young people at risk which can be confusing for young people and their parents.

Our proposals for improving support to young people, particularly those who are at risk, will be set out in a Youth Green Paper which will be published in due course. We have encouraged all those who have made representations to take the opportunity to respond to the Green Paper once it is published.

Consultants

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Department spent on consultants in *(a)* the last 12 months, *(b)* 2003–04 and *(c)* 2004–05. [6347]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Education and Skills spent the following sums from administration costs for the periods in question *(a)* £3.8 million in the last 12 months; *(b)* £4.7 million in 2003–04 and *(c)* £3.9 million in 2004–05. The total cost of consultants charged to programmes from November to March 2004–05 was £4.4 million. The cost charged to programmes before November 2004 is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many of her Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the south east. [6266]

Maria Eagle: My Department, our non-departmental public bodies and Ofsted are, together, implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate around 800 posts out of London and the South East by 2010. So far, my Department had not identified any posts suitable for transfer to deprived areas in the South East.

Faith Schools

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many faith schools have been established in England since 1997; and how many she expects to be established in the next five years. [4052]

Jacqui Smith: There have been 145 voluntary aided schools (schools within which the majority of governors are appointed by the faith body) opened in England since 1997 (of these one closed in 1998 and two closed in 2001), with a further 31 proposals received for the next five years. Faith schools can be proposed by promoters at any time and, as such, the Department is currently only aware of schools proposed up to 2007.

There have also been some 48 voluntary controlled schools (schools within which the majority of governors are appointed by the local education authority and have a strong link to the faith body) opened since 1997, with a further 21 proposals received for the period to 2007.

Further and Higher Education

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will assess the likely effect of the spending priorities set out in the Skills Strategy on the practice of further education providers waiving adult education fees on a discretionary basis. [6742]

Bill Rammell: The Skills Strategy clearly set out the need to rebalance the contributions of employers, individuals and the public purse towards the costs of learning. We have been clear about our priorities of a place in school, college or an apprenticeship for all young people, and a focus on adults without a solid foundation of employability skills. Within an overall increased budget, these will be the focus for public funding. We will continue to provide fee concessions arrangements for learners on means tested benefits to access FE but we expect colleges to increase their total fee income, including collecting the income they currently chose to waive at their own discretion. These are not just technical funding changes. They are the first step in a necessary change of culture and expectations, where the value of learning and the benefits it brings to learners and to employers is properly recognised as a worthwhile and necessary investment.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time students with dependants there were in higher education institutions in England in each year between 1994 and 2004. [6743]

Bill Rammell: Data are not available on the number of students with dependants.

However, data are available on the number of full-time students receiving a dependants' grant and are shown in the table.

Students domiciled in England and Wales at UK institutions[1] in receipt of at least one dependants' grant in academic years 1999/2000[2] to2003/04[3]

Academic year	*Number[4]*
1999/2000	15,500
2000/01	20,400
2001/02	23,900
2002/03	24,300
2003/04	27,900

[1] Data are not available for English institutions only.
[2] Earliest year for which data are available.
[3] Latest academic year for which data are available.
[4] Rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
F503G Survey of Local Education Authorities and SLC

The 2004/05 Student Income and Expenditure Survey (SIES) should provide us with the proportion of students, both full-time and part-time, who have dependants. Unfortunately, the coverage of the most recent SIES, 2002/03, was limited to full-time students without children and cannot provide us with this information. Part-time students are not eligible to receive dependants' grants, therefore no data are available.

Jarvis plc

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will list the private finance initiative contracts that exist between *(a)* schools and *(b)* other education institutions and Jarvis plc. [5938]

Jacqui Smith: The following lists include the PFI contracts which were signed between Jarvis and individual schools, and those between Jarvis and local authorities for groups of schools. There were no PFI projects signed with Jarvis in the further education and children's services sectors. The Department does not hold information on the PFI contracts of higher education institutions.

Contract signed with school

Cardinal Heenan VA School, Leeds
Barnhill Community School, Hillingdon
JFS School, Brent

Contract signed with local authority

Brighton and Hove, grouped schools
Croydon, Ashburton School
Dorset, Colfox School
East Riding of Yorkshire, grouped schools
Essex, Debden Park School
Haringey, grouped schools
Kirklees, grouped schools
Liverpool, grouped schools
Richmond upon Thames, grouped schools
Salford, grouped schools
Sunderland, Sandhill Learning Centre
Torbay, grouped schools
Wirral, grouped schools

Looked-after Children

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of looked-after children aged under two years experienced three or more changes of accommodation in the most recent year for which figures are available. [6446]

Maria Eagle: At 31 March 2004 5,200 children were looked-after aged under two years. Of these, 640 (12 per cent.) had experienced three or more placements in the year ending 31 March 2004. These figures exclude children looked-after under an agreed series of short term placements.

Multiplication

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, to question ref. 4432, on multiplication facts, whether there is a requirement in the Framework for Teaching Mathematics: Reception to Year 6 documents for children to learn their multiplication tables by heart. [6200]

Jacqui Smith: The Framework for Teaching Mathematics sets the objective that all children learn by heart all multiplication tables up to 10 x 10.

Nutrition

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many registered *(a)* nutritionists and *(b)* dieticians she employs within her Department. [5294]

Maria Eagle: We do not hold information centrally on numbers of staff who are registered nutritionists or dieticians. None are employed specifically to work on policies relating to food, for example school meals. The Department draws upon expertise in the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health where

advice on nutrition and diet is needed, and commissions work from external experts (for example those currently members of the School Meals Review Panel).

Overseas Students

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the number of overseas students from EU member states attending university in Coventry South constituency. [6133]

Bill Rammell: The constituency of Coventry, South contains the University of Coventry and Warwick university. The latest available information is given in the table:

EU domiciled enrolments at HE institutions in Coventry, South constituency 2003-04

	Institution	
Domicile	*Coventry university*	*University of Warwick*
Austria	5	50
Belgium	[1]—	80
Denmark	15	40
Finland	10	25
France	325	185
Germany	60	275
Gibraltar	5	5
Greece	295	245
Irish Republic	55	75
Italy	20	120
Luxembourg	5	30
Netherlands	5	70
Portugal	15	45
Spain	70	70
Sweden	10	180
Cyprus	30	135
Czech Republic	[1]—	15
Hungary	0	15
Malta	[1]—	15
Poland	10	40
Estonia	0	[1]—
Latvia	0	5
Lithuania	0	5
Slovenia	0	[1]—
Slovakia	[1]—	5

[1] Signifies a number greater than zero but less than three.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Private Schools

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many private schools there are in Coventry, South constituency. [6134]

Jacqui Smith: Provisional data as at January 2005 indicate that there are six independent schools in Coventry, South parliamentary constituency.

School Meals

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assistance she expects the public sector will provide to the work of the School Meals Trust. [6564]

Jacqui Smith: Both public and private sectors have welcomed our proposals to set up the School Food Trust (SFT). It will give independent support and advice to schools and parents to improve the standard of school meals, working with the food industry, caterers, nutritionists, food interest groups and the public sector. We have already announced financial support of £5 million per year for the SFT for the next three years. My Department will assist the SFT in establishing itself, will agree an annual business plan in relation to the grant it receives from DFES, and work closely with it to ensure that our respective work programmes are complementary.

Schoolchildren (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in each school in Gloucestershire live in another local authority. [6816]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested at school level has been made available in the House of Commons Library. Summary information showing the home LEAs of pupils attending schools in Gloucestershire is provided in the following table.

Pupils attending schools in Gloucestershire residing outside of authority

	Number of pupils	*Percentage of pupils*
Pupils attending schools in Gloucestershire	86,043	100.0
Residing authority		
Gloucestershire	82,807	96.2
City of Bristol	6	[1]—
Herefordshire	218	0.3
Monmouthshire	396	0.5
Newport	18	[1]—
North Somerset	5	[1]—
Oxfordshire	148	0.2
South Gloucestershire	726	0.8
Swindon	219	0.3
Unknown/not given	363	0.4
Warwickshire	334	0.4
Wiltshire	351	0.4
Worcestershire	443	0.5
Other LEAs	9	[1]—
Total residing outside of authority	3,236	3.8

[1] Denotes percentage of less than 0.05 per cent.

Source:
PLASC 2005 provisional data

Schools Provision (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding is being made available for the expansion of schools provision in Lancashire. [6606]

Jacqui Smith: In 2005-06 recurrent funding through the schools formula spending share has increased in Lancashire by 7.0 per cent. per pupil and its total SFSS has risen to £555.1 million. The funding that individual schools receive is a matter for the local authority through its locally agreed funding formula.

As far as schools capital funding is concerned, £31.2 million has been allocated to Lancashire local

authority and schools for the year 2005–06. Indicative allocations of £35.6 million and £37.2 million have been made for the years 2006–07 and 2007–08 respectively. These allocations will be utilised in accordance with the local authority and schools' asset management plans, taking account of changes in school population within the local authority area.

Special Needs/Schools

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many special needs *(a)* assistants and *(b)* teachers there were in London in each year since 1997, broken down by local education authority. [6406]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number teachers employed solely as special needs teachers is not collected centrally.

Information on special needs teaching assistants in service is collected in January of each year. The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of special needs assistants in each London local education authority in each January since 1997.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, special schools[1] and pupil referral units: full-time equivalent number of special needs support staff

	Position as at January each year								
Each London local education authority	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*[2]2005*
London	2,660	2,780	3,350	3,800	4,720	6,340	6,240	6,590	7,120
Inner London	990	1,020	1,220	1,390	1,820	2,370	2,250	2,380	2,480
Camden	90	90	80	80	90	160	150	170	200
City of London	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Hackney	40	50	80	80	100	180	190	220	230
Hammersmith and Fulham	50	40	70	70	60	130	120	130	130
Haringey	50	40	30	30	80	150	210	230	250
Islington	80	60	70	80	90	190	130	110	70
Kensington and Chelsea	40	50	50	60	70	60	90	80	90
Lambeth	100	100	120	150	180	230	180	150	130
Lewisham	120	110	140	140	160	80	90	100	110
Newham	100	120	170	240	360	440	340	340	280
Southwark	140	160	170	200	260	240	250	260	290
Tower Hamlets	100	110	140	150	230	240	190	200	210
Wandsworth	50	70	70	70	90	180	210	260	370
Westminster	30	20	30	30	30	80	80	110	110
Outer London	1,670	1,760	2,140	2,420	2,900	3,970	3,990	4,210	4,640
Barking and Dagenham	140	130	140	140	150	200	240	260	210
Barnet	120	130	180	220	260	350	320	300	350
Bexley	90	100	130	150	170	220	240	240	240
Brent	50	70	110	110	110	140	140	190	200
Bromley	110	110	110	130	170	280	270	300	280
Croydon	110	120	170	190	250	220	220	210	210
Ealing	80	70	90	100	150	210	230	210	220
Enfield	70	70	90	110	130	230	230	220	280
Greenwich	90	110	120	160	190	360	310	330	410
Harrow	160	160	180	190	190	190	240	260	260
Havering	90	80	100	110	130	170	180	190	220
Hillingdon	140	150	170	180	210	190	200	220	240
Hounslow	50	60	70	100	110	150	160	180	190
Kingston upon Thames	30	30	40	50	50	110	110	160	180
Merton	80	90	110	120	140	140	160	180	210
Redbridge	60	80	80	120	150	310	280	270	360
Richmond upon Thames	40	40	40	50	60	70	80	100	110
Sutton	50	60	90	110	120	170	140	150	160
Waltham Forest	90	100	110	120	140	250	260	250	330

[1] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[2] Provisional
[3] Nil or less than 5.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual School Census

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what form the Government's audit of special schools will take; and if she will make a statement. [5934]

Maria Eagle: The audit is being undertaken by the Special Needs Consultancy on behalf of the Department. The aims of the Audit are to:

Establish how local authorities meet the needs of the children in their authority with low incidence SEN.

Explore gaps in services, support and provision, and how these gaps can be/are being addressed.

Use the above to support and inform policy and practice development for regional and local planning and provision so that more pupils have their needs met locally.

Help develop thinking around regional centres of expertise.

Identify local, regional and national centres of good practice and expertise, especially those with the potential for enhancing their role to provide advice and/or support to schools.

The audit is being conducted using findings from a piloting stage. Questionnaires have been issued to all local authorities. Responses are being received and followed up. Regional focus groups have been established and are now working to gather information and offer advice on specialist services, support and provision provided by local authorities and health as well as the non-maintained, private and voluntary sectors.

Student Debt

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* the total amount of debt incurred by UK students studying at English universities, *(b)* the mean amount of such debt and *(c)* the median amount of such debt was for each year since 1996; and what estimate she has made of these figures for each year until 2010. [5005]

Bill Rammell: The table shows the student loan amount outstanding for publicly-owned debt in the UK, at the end of each financial year specified.

Financial year	*Amount outstanding (£ million)*
1995–96	1,859.0
1996–97	2,691.0
1997–98	3,574.3
1998–99	3,591.9
1999–2000	3,992.5
2000–01	6,043.2
2001–02	8,394.0
2002–03	10,827.5
2003–04	13,364.2

Source:
Student Loans Company

Data are not available centrally for UK students at English universities.

The latest Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2002/03, which covered young, single, childless full-time undergraduate students in higher education institutions in England and Wales found that final year students' average anticipated total debt on graduation was £8,666 in 2002/03. This included student loans, overdrafts, credit cards, commercial loans and informal loans. The 2004/05 SIES, published at the end of 2005, will give up to date figures.

The table shows average student loan debt for UK borrowers, at the point they entered repayment status, by financial year. Note this only covers student loans obtained from the Student Loans Company.

Financial year entered repayment status	*Average debt (£)*[1]
1999–2000	3,530
2000–01	3,840
2001–02	4,230
2002–03	5,720
2003–04	7,110
2004–05[2]	7,910
2005–06[2]	8,430

[1] Values rounded to nearest 10. Includes interest accrued up to the point of entering repayment status. Excludes any early voluntary repayments that may have been made by the borrower before entering repayment status.
[2] Income-contingent loans only
Source:
Student Loans Company

Figures are not available before 1999–2000. Borrowers enter repayment status in the April following graduation or otherwise leaving their course. Data are not available centrally in the form requested.

The introduction of loans for variable fees of up to £3,000 will increase the amount the average student is able to borrow but not all will take up their full loan entitlement. Those receiving the new maintenance grants and university bursaries can use them if they wish to reduce their overall debt.

Changes to maintenance loans levels could reduce rather than increase student indebtedness for many poorer students. Although maintenance loans will rise in 2006/07 to reflect the median of essential living costs expenditure recorded in the SIES 2002/03, a bigger change will be the substitution of a significant part of the new £2,700 maintenance grant for maintenance loans for lower income students, reducing the need to borrow.

We will be monitoring changes in borrowing patterns as the new student support arrangements come in. Whatever a student's circumstances, no student from 2006/07 has to pay fees upfront and the arrangements for repayment of maintenance and fee loans are fair and equitable. The graduate's repayments are at zero real rate of interest, related directly to earnings and only required when earnings are greater than £15,000 per year.

DfES does not hold information on borrowers in repayment status at an individual student level; therefore we are unable to calculate a median amount of debt.

Truancy

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the truancy level has been in each secondary school in the *(a)* Reading borough council and *(b)* Wokingham district council local education authority area in each year since 1990. [5410]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is only available from 1994 (truancy rates were not published previously); this information has been placed in the Library. These figures relate to unauthorised absence, this includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Undergraduates

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of undergraduate students in higher education institutions in England were *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in each year between 1995 and 2005; and what the projected figures are for 2006 to 2010. [3063]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures and projections for higher education students (studying at higher education institutions or further education colleges in England) are given in the tables.

UK domiciled undergraduate students in England[1]

Academic year	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Percentage full-time*
1995/96[2]	753,220	422,895	1,176,115	64
1996/97[2]	760,910	446,120	1,207,035	63
1997/98[2]	775,470	440,460	1,215,935	64
1998/99[2]	780,780	453,130	1,233,910	63
1999/00[2]	777,160	456,955	1,234,115	63
2000/01[2]	780,125	473,445	1,253,570	62
2000/01[3]	774,895	447,305	1,222,195	63
2001/02[3]	798,415	482,555	1,280,965	62
2002/03[3]	824,670	492,425	1,317,095	63
2003/04[3]	842,535	498,405	1,340,940	63

[1] Covers students studying at higher education institutions and further education Colleges.

[2] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December of the academic year, and are rounded to the nearest five.

[3] Figures are on a DfES whole year count basis which are not consistent with snapshot figures given for earlier years. The whole year count counts students at the end of the academic year and provides a more accurate representation of student numbers. Whole year count figures are not available for years before 2000/01. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Note:

Constituent parts may not sum due to founding.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individual Learner Records (ILR).

Projected UK domiciled undergraduate students in England[1]

Academic year	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Percentage full-time*
2004/05[2]	857,000	494,000	1,351,000	63
2005/06[2]	876,000	500,000	1,375,000	64
2006/07[2]	892,000	504,000	1,396,000	64
2007/08[2]	907,000	510,000	1,417,000	64

[1] Covers students studying at higher education institutions and further education colleges.

[2] Projected figures given here are on a whole year count basis. Coverage is different than for the actual student numbers given in the preceding table. In particular, students of unknown or Island domiciles or on courses of greater than six years in length are not included in the projections.

Note:

Constituent parts may not sum due to rounding.

The planned number of student places is set during spending reviews in the light of the Government's target of increasing participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged-17 to 30 by the end of the decade, and the projections shown here are based on these plans. Projections may change as new data becomes available. Projections for 2007/08 are subject to revision (and projections for years beyond 2007/08 are not available) as they are dependent on Spending Review 2006 outcomes.

Teacher Victims of Violence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have been victims of offences of violence in the West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 years. [6599]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Young Carers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government have taken to encourage school nurses to address the needs of young carers. [5495]

Maria Eagle: The Government are currently taking action to increase the numbers of school nurses and to develop and promote a modern role that has the support of children, young people and their families, the profession, education and the NHS.

School nurses have a specific role in supporting children and young people with ongoing or specialist needs and this would include children who are young carers. School nurses have good networks and working relationships with other health and social care professionals. They will also have a good working knowledge of other statutory agencies and local voluntary provision. In addition to seeing children and young people in school and community settings, school nurses are also able to undertake home visits.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 27 June 2005

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Visitor Reception Building and Westminster Hall

Derek Conway: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on progress with planning for the Visitor Reception Building and its likely impact on Westminster Hall. [7499]

Nick Harvey: In May last year the House agreed to the proposal made in the joint Report from the Accommodation and Works and Administration Committees for a new Visitor Reception Building to be sited at the north west corner of Westminster Hall. The House of Lords endorsed this proposal in July last year.

Over the past 12 months work on design has progressed. Tenders will be invited in August 2005. Construction is due to begin on site in December 2005. It is planned to complete the work by the time of return of the House in October 2006.

A model of the new Visitor Reception Building will be exhibited in the Upper Waiting Hall from 27 June to 1 July, in the atrium of Portcullis House from 4 to 8 July, and in the Royal Gallery in the House of Lords from 11 to 15 July.

The construction of the new facility will in any event involve some disruption to Westminster Hall as well as the facilities on the west side of the Hall. To avoid such disruption being spread over a number of years, the opportunity is being taken to undertake at the same time a number of maintenance and repair projects in Westminster Hall itself, including replacement of the guttering and repairs to the south stairs and floor. As a result, Westminster Hall, the Grand Committee Room, the Jubilee Cafe, the Jubilee Room, the meeting rooms off Westminster Hall, and the IPU and CPA offices and reception rooms will be inaccessible from the end of December 2005 until October 2006.

Mr. Speaker has decided that sittings of the House in Westminster Hall will be held in Committee Room 10, with effect from January 2006 until the return of the House in October 2006.

As a temporary measure to replace the W meeting rooms off Westminster Hall, Committee Room 21 on the Upper Committee Corridor will be divided into two separate meeting rooms. The Serjeant at Arms will shortly be circulating further details of arrangements for other meeting rooms.

As a temporary measure to alleviate the effect of the closure of the Jubilee Room, functions held in the Macmillan Room in Portcullis House will be allowed to use outside caterers, as will meetings in additional spaces to be made available by the House of Lords.

The offices of the UK branch of the CPA will be moved to temporary offices in 2 The Abbey Garden. The Chess Room will be made available as a reception room.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Fraud

Gregory Barker: To ask the Solicitor-General what criminal investigations the Serious Fraud Office is undertaking into cases of fraud by staff working for HM Customs and Excise; and if he will make a statement. [6629]

The Solicitor-General: SFO policy is to neither confirm or deny whether a specific matter has been referred to it, or is under investigation, until such a time as is considered appropriate or necessary.

On this occasion it is in the public interest to confirm that I am told there are no current SFO investigations into allegations of fraud by officials of HM Customs and Excise (now HM Revenue and Customs).

Any such allegation referred to the SFO would be accepted for investigation if it met the SFO's acceptance criteria and there was evidence to support the allegations. Otherwise it may be investigated by an alternative investigating authority.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will make a statement on the role of the Serious Fraud Office in investigating cases of fraud by staff at HM Customs and Excise. [6630]

The Solicitor-General: The Director of the Serious Fraud Office may investigate any suspected offence involving serious or complex fraud.

The overriding criterion is that the fraud is such that the direction of the investigation should be in the hands of those responsible for any subsequent prosecution.

If a case involving allegations of fraud by officials of HM Customs and Excise (now HM Revenue and Customs) was referred to the SFO that met this criterion, then it would be accepted for investigation by the SFO.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Solicitor-General how many officials currently in the offices of the Law Officers received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5114]

The Solicitor-General: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on Wednesday 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

Iraq

Lynne Jones: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 805W, on advice to Cabinet, on what basis it was disclosed that the Attorney-General made an oral presentation to the Cabinet of his advice on the legality of the war in Iraq. [7594]

The Solicitor-General: The information was disclosed by the Butler Review of Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction in its Report published on 14 July 2004.

Lenient Sentences (Appeals)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Solicitor-General under what circumstances the Crown Prosecution Service has the power to appeal against an unduly lenient sentence; and whether this includes convictions for actual bodily harm. [6221]

The Solicitor-General: Part IV of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, as amended, provides that the Attorney-General may apply to the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) to refer for review by the court sentences that he regards to be unduly lenient. The Solicitor-General has the same power to refer sentences. The CPS and other prosecuting agencies cannot appeal directly under the power but must refer a sentence to the Law Officers for consideration. It is then for the Law Officer alone to decide whether to refer the sentence.

These provisions only apply to certain offences where the sentence is passed in the Crown court but does not include assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The CPS can refer to the Law Officers any sentence for an offence which is covered by the power where it considers it appropriate to do so. It may also refer cases to the Law Officers where there has been a direct request to do so by a victim, family member or member of the public.

The Court of Appeal, having considered an application for a review of such a sentence, may quash the sentence passed in the Crown court and impose a different sentence which can be more severe.

Muggers (Prosecutions)

John Hemming: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 456W, on theft, what powers the police have to ensure that a mugger is prosecuted. [4183]

The Solicitor-General: The decision whether to initiate a prosecution of a case in the courts may be taken either by the police or by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). How the procedure to initiate proceedings operates depends on the nature of the offence and, currently, where an offence was committed. When the roll-out of statutory charging is completed (planned for April 2006), a standard procedure will apply throughout England and Wales.

In an area where statutory charging applies, the Director of Public Prosecutions' (DPP) Guidance (under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, as amended) allows police officers themselves to charge a range of offences but not robbery.

The CPS would usually deal with robbery offences. The public interest would almost always demand a prosecution in such cases. In strictly limited circumstances, a case that is cautioned may subsequently be prosecuted, though the parameters have been very tightly defined by the courts.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Acts of Parliament (Internet Access)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to make all Acts of Parliament published before 1988 for which her Department is responsible available on-line. [3717]

Jim Knight: The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) within the Cabinet Office is the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament, and responsible for the publication of Acts of Parliament. HMSO has considered the publication of Acts prior to 1988, which is the earliest date when these were available electronically, but has decided not to do so as many have been heavily amended and to publish them in their original form would be misleading for many users. The Government is, however, taking forward development of a Statute Law Database which will contain the fully revised and updated text of all legislation from 1275. It is expected that this will be made available to the general public during 2006.

Aircraft (Carbon Dioxide)

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures she plans to put in place to reduce carbon dioxide output from aircraft entering or leaving the United Kingdom. [7416]

Mr. Morley: This Government are concerned about the contribution that UK aviation makes to global warming, which by 2030 could amount to about a quarter of the UK's total contribution to climate change. We are working hard domestically and in the EU to reduce the impact of aviation on climate change. Defra Ministers and officials worked closely with colleagues at the Department for Transport to ensure that this vital issue was addressed in the Government's Air Transport White Paper which was published in December 2003. As a result, the Government's long term aviation policy has repeated our commitment to taking a lead on climate change and recognises the need for aviation to take its share of responsibility for tackling the impact of air transport on global warming.

The preferred Government option for tackling the contribution that aviation makes to global warming is through a well designed emissions trading scheme. For an international industry, an international trading regime is the best solution, and we are working with the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) to achieve this. Within the EU we will be pressing for the inclusion of aviation into the EU emissions trading scheme, and have made this a top priority for the UK presidency of the EU, with a view to aviation joining the scheme in 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter. Officials from DfT and Defra have already approached other member states on the matter and are working closely with the European Commission.

This provides a solid foundation for action in tackling aviation's global impacts. However, we recognise that this may not provide a total solution. In view of this, we will continue to explore and discuss options for the use of other economic instruments for tackling aviation's greenhouse gas emissions, building on the work in the March 2003 report "Aviation and the Environment: Using Economic Instruments".

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much carbon was emitted in *(a)* 1990 and *(b)* 2004 from international aviation which (i) landed and (ii) took off from the UK. [4882]

Mr. Morley: Emissions from international aviation which took off from the UK in 1990 and 2003 (the most recent year for which the information is available) were 4.3 and 8.1 million tonnes of carbon per year, respectively. These emissions are estimated using the amount of fuel provided to aircraft in the UK. The estimates are consistent with guidelines developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and agreed internationally for the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories. Emissions from international aviation that landed at UK airports are not separately estimated.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much carbon was emitted in the UK in *(a)* 1990 and *(b)* 2004 (i) excluding and (ii) including international aviation. [4883]

Mr. Morley: The following table shows UK carbon dioxide emissions with and without international aviation in 1990 and 2003, which is the most recent year for which full information is available. The data are expressed as million tonnes of carbon per year and were released by the Department in March this year.

Million tonnes carbon per year

	UK emissions excluding international aviation	*Emissions including international aviation*
1990	165.4	169.7
2003	156.1	164.2

Emissions from international aviation and international shipping are recorded as memorandum items in the UK greenhouse gas inventory but are not included in national totals. This is consistent with guidelines developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and agreed internationally for the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories.

Badgers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the relationship between badger populations and the incidence of TB in cattle. [1507]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no recent data on the relationship between badger population density and the incidence of TB in cattle.

Investigation of the prevalence of TB in wild badgers is being carried out through the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) and the Road Traffic Accident survey of badgers found dead in seven English counties. The RBCT will provide some information on badger numbers within the trial areas, which could be related to cattle herd breakdown rates. However, badger density estimates may not be very reliable even in trial areas (they would be based on trapping returns and field survey information).

British Waterways Board

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will instruct the British Waterways Board to realise the value of its non-operational land in order to apply it to investment in the operational waterways or to fund other cost-cutting exercises elsewhere in Government. [4594]

Jim Knight: No. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 250W.

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in her Department in 2004–05. [4544]

Jim Knight: This information is as follows:

(a) Value for Money Savings

DEFRA's value for money procurement gains for 2004–05 are being calculated and will be published in the 2005 Treasury Autumn Performance report.

(b) Reductions in Civil Service Posts in 2004–05

In Budget 2005 the Chancellor announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a gross reduction of 84,000 civil service and administrative posts by 2008.

DEFRA's target is to reduce its head count by 2,400 (measured as full-time equivalent posts) by the end of 2007–08. The programmes that make up DEFRA's efficiency portfolio contributed 340 posts to this target in financial year 2004–05. The majority of these post reductions were delivered through restructuring and the introduction of new working practices in the Rural Payments Agency (235 posts) and the human resources function (91 posts).

DEFRA's staff in post figures show a reduction of 445 posts between 1 April 2004 and 1 April 2005. This includes the transfer of 320 members of staff to IBM as part of the outsourcing of IT services in October 2004. However, these transfers cannot be counted as efficiencies, as the individuals continue to work on DEFRA's account. The reason that the balance does not match the reductions delivered through the efficiency programme is that DEFRA has taken on staff to meet new work areas arising from the Spending Review 2004 settlement, such as the world summit on climate change and the EU presidency.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 523–40, on the European Council, what estimate she has made of the likely increase in the UK net contribution to the EU budget if the Government's proposals for reform of the Common Agricultural Project are accepted. [6779]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The impact of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform on the UK net contribution to the EU budget will very much depend on the outcome of the overall negotiations currently being held on the next Financial Perspective—not just that element which relates to the CAP.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish a concise guide, in every recognised language of the EU, to British proposals for the reform of the CAP, indicating the benefits in each EU member state to *(a)* consumers, *(b)* taxpayers, *(c)* small farms, *(d)* the environment *(e)* animal welfare and *(f)* the benefits of reform to developing countries. [4797]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans to publish a guide of this kind. However, the Government will continue to argue the case for further reform of the CAP, and will use every available opportunity for promote the benefits of reform.

Departmental Staff

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many registered *(a)* nutritionists and *(b)* dieticians she employs within her Department. [5298]

Jim Knight: There are no registered nutritionists or dieticians employed within DEFRA or its executive agencies.

Endangered Species Regulations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what responses she received on the draft statutory instrument on Control in Trade of Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 2005; and if she will make a statement; [6744]

(2) whether she intends to increase the maximum sentence for all offences under the Control in Trade of Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 2005 to five years as provided for in section 307 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003; and if she will make a statement; [6745]

(3) when she intends to introduce secondary legislation under section 307 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 increasing the maximum sentence for the illegal trade in endangered species. [6746]

Jim Knight: We have received 53 responses to the consultation on the draft Statutory Instrument. We are considering these responses and plan to publish an amended Statutory Instrument later in the year.

I have today laid before Parliament the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 which increase the maximum penalty for certain offences to five years imprisonment. The regulations will come into force on 21 July.

Equine Passports

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether all equines are required to have a passport. [6193]

Jim Knight: The Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2004 require owners in England of horses, ponies and other equines to obtain a passport for each such animal they own within specified time limits. Similar requirements apply in the rest of the UK.

There are limited exceptions for ponies on Dartmoor and in the New Forest which will only need a passport when they move from these areas. The New Forest Verderers and the Dartmoor Commoners Council are each obliged to maintain a list, which individually identifies all such horses and ponies.

Owners of horses brought into England do not need to apply for a passport if the horse or other equine remains in England for less than 30 days. Again, similar provision applies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland regards horses and other equines brought into those territories.

These measures apply to animals of equine or asinine species, or crossbreeds of those species, but do not apply to zebras.

Flood Defences

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what technologies were used in drawing up the Environment Agency flood maps; and what steps her Department is taking to improve the accuracy of the maps. [6548]

Mr. Morley: Flood risk mapping is an important part of our and the Environment Agency's public awareness strategy, to ensure that flood risk is better understood by all concerned including people living and working in the floodplains and those responsible for development control and emergency planning.

The Environment Agency's Flood Map is the result of years of investment in river and coastal floodplain surveys, hydrological and hydraulic modelling and mapping of land at risk from flooding. The best available technologies, science and leading engineering consultancies have been used for each element of the mapping that was appropriate to the geographical scale under consideration. By combining the mapping into one product the Environment Agency has produced the most comprehensive and accurate publicly available Flood Map for England and Wales.

The Environment Agency, through their flood mapping strategy, is continuing to invest in extending and improving their understanding of flood risk with a planned expenditure on flood mapping of £8.5 million in 2005–06. Three-monthly updates are produced, which incorporate the latest data into the Flood Map. The Flood Map is available on the internet and it is also

provided directly to planning authorities and the emergency services to help with planning and preparing for future flooding.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in her Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if she will make a statement. [4127]

Jim Knight: The Department has only been in existence since June 2001. Information covering earlier periods is therefore not available.

The number of laptop computers available for use is:

	2001–02	*Financial year 2004–05*
Ministers	6	16
Special advisers	n/a	2
Officials	1,835	2,127

n/a = Not available

It should be noted that the laptops shown as available for use by Ministers are held by their private offices and are available for use by Ministers, special advisers and staff.

Data for the intervening years could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The number of laptops (i) lost and (ii) stolen is:

Financial year	*Lost*	*Stolen*
2000–01	0	7
2001–02	5	6
2002–03	0	2
2003–04	0	0
2004–05	0	3

To calculate the cost of using laptops there are many elements to consider, such as, purchase cost, peripheral devices, maintenance, depreciation, service provision and electricity used. Each of these costs would be different for each different model of laptop used in the Department. The time required collating this information and to calculate this figure, even if it were available, would result in a disproportionate cost.

Luxembourg Plan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects on rural development of the implementation of the Luxembourg Plan. [3870]

Jim Knight: There have been two initiatives on rural development under the Luxembourg Presidency.

The hon. Gentleman will be aware that the European Council's discussions on 16–17 June did not reach agreement on the future financing of the EU. The financial amounts available for rural development will depend on the outcome of the negotiations on future financing of the EU, and on factors such as the ability of member states to transfer resources from traditional direct subsidies to farmers (so-called "Pillar 1") to rural development measures. This is a practice which the UK has followed since 2001; and the UK is pressing to ensure that domestic agri-environment programmes can continue to be funded in this way.

The Luxembourg Presidency did, however, secure political agreement to the draft Rural Development Regulation at Agricultural Council on 20 June (subject to any necessary amendment in the light of future financing decisions). The regulation sets out the framework for EU co-financed rural development expenditure from 2007 to 2013. My Department's assessment was set out in Explanatory Memorandum 11495/04.

Mole-catchers

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department made of the working practices of mole-catchers before she agreed to the banning of strychnine hydrochloride as a biocidal agent. [6271]

Mr. Morley: Defra recognised the problems that the withdrawal of strychnine could cause for the control of moles. The Central Science Laboratory was commissioned to undertake a review of the range of mole control methods which exist across the EU. The aim of this review was to produce guidance on the most humane and effective methods of mole control which are currently available.

The report "A review of methods used within the European Union to control the European Mole, Talpa Europaea" was published by Defra in February 2004. It concluded that the unavailability of strychnine in the future suggests that landowners and occupiers will have to assess more carefully whether moles should be controlled or left alone in order to avoid initiating measures that are unnecessary or unlikely to reduce damage levels in the long term. If control is necessary, alternative methods are available such as trapping and fumigation.

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what alternative methods for the destruction of moles her Department advises mole-catchers to use once strychnine hydrochloride is withdrawn. [6272]

Mr. Morley: Once strychnine hydrochloride is withdrawn, if control of moles is considered necessary alternatives are available such as trapping or fumigation.

National Bee Unit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to the National Bee Unit health programme in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [4805]

Jim Knight: DEFRA supports the beekeeping sector in England by funding a range of measures to protect bee health. These measures are implemented by the

National Bee Unit. The Department's expenditure with the Unit in each of the last five years is sent out in the following table.

DEFRA expenditure with the National Bee Unit

	£
2001–02	1,300,000
2002–03	1,300,000
2003–04	1,235,000
2004–05	1,235,000
2005–06	1,235,000

Rights of Way (Designations)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications have been received for areas to be designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; how many have been approved; and how many footpaths have been *(a)* closed and *(b)* diverted on grounds of crime prevention as a result. [6695]

Jim Knight: The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced provisions to enable alleyways to be gated to prevent crime, in areas designated for this purpose by the Secretary of State.

We have received 28 applications for designation since the legislation came into force in February 2002. 25 have subsequently been approved. These cover 84 areas in England. Of the remaining three applications, two were withdrawn and one is still pending.

Since the 84 areas were designated, 53 orders have been made under new section 118b of the Highways Act 1980 to close rights of way to prevent crime. 35 of these have resulted in highways being successfully closed. The remaining orders are awaiting confirmation by the local highway authority or Secretary of State. We are not aware of any diversion orders.

Sewage

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans there are to reduce the amount of sewage being deposited in the Thames. [6335]

Mr. Morley: The Final Determination of Thames Water's price limits in 2005–10, published by the Office of Water Services (Ofwat) on 2 December 2004, include provision for significant treatment capacity increases at Mogden, Beckton and Crossness sewage works, and to improve the treated discharge at Riverside sewage works. The capacity increases are expected to reduce the frequency and impact of storm water discharges from these works.

Since 2001 officials from the Department have been involved in a strategic study of the environmental impact of intermittent storm sewage discharges to the Thames Tideway. The Steering Group includes members from Thames Water, the Environment Agency, the Greater London Authority, and, with observer status, Ofwat.

My officials and the Study Group are currently carrying out further consideration of issues concerning the proposed long-term interceptor tunnel, and possible appropriate smaller-scale measures which could provide earlier improvements to the overflow discharges during wet weather. A further report is expected soon, and it will be carefully considered by Ministers and Ofwat, and a decision made on an appropriate course of action to meet our obligations to protect the environment in a cost-effective way.

Silage

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* economic and *(b)* animal health impacts of the pollution of silage by earth. [6276]

Mr. Morley: No assessments of the economic or animal health impacts of the pollution of silage by earth have been made by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Single Farm Payment

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the representations she has received on the effects of single farm payments on motor sports events being held on agricultural land; what response she has made; and if she will make a statement. [5249]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* Land used in support of claims for payment under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) must be at the claimants' disposal for the 10-month period nominated on their claim forms. Under recently updated guidance issued by the Department, motor sports may take place on up to 28 days during the nominated 10-month period, in addition to all of the remaining two months of the year. The updated guidance takes on board representations made by motor sports interests and, overall, we would expect the impact of the SPS on the availability of farmland used for such sports to be limited.

Since the updated guidance was issued, the Department has received additional representations from the All Party Parliamentary Group for Motorcycles, the Motorsport Industry Association and a number of individuals, which are currently being considered.

Waste Management

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many kilogrammes per capita of *(a)* municipal, *(b)* commercial and industrial and *(c)* waste electrical and electronic equipment were (i) recycled, (ii) sent to incineration and (iii) landfilled in each member state of the European Union in (A) 2000, (B) 2001, (C) 2002, (D) 2003 and (E) 2004. [3466]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is as follows:

(a) The following tables show the amount of municipal waste recycled, incinerated and landfilled per capita, in each EU country, for each year from 2000 to 2003 based on data supplied to and published by Eurostat.

(i) Municipal waste recycled and composted/kg per capita per year

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Austria	320	321	357	362
Belgium	230	239	246	231
Bulgaria	117	102	96	92
Croatia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cyprus	67	69	71	71
Czech Republic	21	24	35	40
Denmark	246	257	254	278
Estonia	2	76	98	144
Finland	145	141	127	124
France	131	142	151	158
Germany	312	305	360	365
Greece	36	37	37	35
Hungary	35	36	40	49
Iceland	93	106	132	135
Ireland	49	166	194	227
Italy	82	123	153	151
Latvia	18	5	66	104
Lithuania	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	235	244	223	235
Malta	146	78	n/a	n/a
Netherlands	369	363	371	386
Norway	189	431	461	474
Poland	6	12	8	8
Portugal	38	13	28	16
Romania	61	70	76	76
Slovakia	120	181	32	68
Slovenia	111	121	126	104
Spain	219	193	190	208
Sweden	166	174	187	195
Turkey	140	117	126	125
United Kingdom	65	74	90	105

(ii) Municipal waste incinerated/kg per capita per year

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Austria	65	65	66	65
Belgium	157	161	158	159
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0
Croatia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cyprus	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	31	35	39	39
Denmark	352	374	374	363
Estonia	0	1	0	0
Finland	52	41	39	41
France	174	181	187	189
Germany	133	135	143	146
Greece	0	0	0	0
Hungary	34	35	28	24
Iceland	61	39	35	38
Ireland	0	0	0	0
Italy	40	44	47	49
Latvia	0	12	23	10
Lithuania	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	284	275	284	274
Malta	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	190	199	194	197
Norway	90	99	109	120
Poland	0	0	1	1
Portugal	96	104	91	98
Romania	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	29	29
Slovenia	0	0	2	3
Spain	37	37	38	40
Sweden	164	169	188	212
Turkey	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	41	43	46	45

(iii) Municipal waste landfilled/kg per capita per year

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Austria	196	192	188	183
Belgium	81	62	58	56
Bulgaria	399	403	404	407
Croatia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cyprus	613	634	638	653
Czech Republic	282	214	205	201
Denmark	67	46	40	34
Estonia	438	295	308	274
Finland	306	284	291	285
France	227	222	219	214
Germany	165	160	137	127
Greece	372	380	385	393
Hungary	376	380	389	390
Iceland	842	861	855	867
Ireland	554	541	504	505
Italy	380	341	325	323
Latvia	252	285	280	248
Lithuania	309	300	288	263
Luxembourg	138	131	146	149
Malta	337	472	474	549
Netherlands	57	50	50	16
Norway	336	105	107	102
Poland	310	275	263	251
Portugal	338	355	328	338
Romania	294	266	307	288
Slovakia	196	209	222	222
Slovenia	402	358	351	344
Spain	339	365	360	361
Sweden	98	99	93	64
Turkey	360	357	353	349
United Kingdom	463	465	464	460

n/a = Data are not available, or have been omitted due to significant quality issues.

Notes:

Data for incineration and landfill are collected and published by Eurostat for the EU structural indicators. The recycling figures are an estimate produced by subtracting the amount landfilled and incinerated from the total amount of municipal waste generated.

(b) The following table shows information made available by Eurostat on non-hazardous industrial waste data only. International data on commercial and industrial waste are limited and definitions may not be consistent between countries. Figures are provided intermittently by member states, the following table therefore gives the most recent data produced.

Non-hazardous industrial waste arisings/kg per capita per year

	Recycled and composted	*Incinerated*	*Landfilled*	*Year on which data are based*
Bulgaria	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Croatia	144	87	n/a	2000
Czech Republic	30	26	92	2001
Denmark	351	72	114	2000
Finland	1,001	1,156	561	2000
France	211	60	66	1999
Germany	308	58	193	2000
Hungary	182	15	34	2000
Iceland	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Ireland	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Italy	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Latvia	25	12	84	2001
Lithuania	79	33	413	2001
Malta	n/a	n/a	62	2001
Netherlands	986	67	79	2001
Norway	236	120	293	1999
Poland	1	5	266	2001
Portugal	311	73	148	2000
Romania	104	11	410	2000

Non-hazardous industrial waste arisings/kg per capita per year

	Recycled and composted	*Incinerated*	*Landfilled*	*Year on which data are based*
Sweden	892	720	290	1998
Turkey	n/a	0	31	1997
United Kingdom	303	12	264	1998

n/a = Data are not available, or have been omitted due to significant quality issues.

(c) Figures for waste electronic and electrical equipment are not available at European Union level.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chile (Earthquake Assistance)

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions have taken place with the government of Chile about redevelopment assistance following the earthquake in the northern Andean region. [6937]

Mr. Thomas: Based on reports of the Chilean Disaster Management Office to the United Nations, the earthquake that affected Chile on 13 June caused nine deaths and 100 injured. The Government of Chile has not requested international assistance. DFID has not had discussions with the Government of Chile following the earthquake.

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Civil Society Challenge Fund. [7367]

Mr. Thomas: All Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) project partners must submit an annual narrative and financial report detailing progress against agreed outcomes. Every year 30 per cent. of these are selected for comprehensive appraisal by external consultants, the rest are assessed internally.

Every CSCF partner must produce a Project Completion Report detailing successes, failures and lessons learned. All of these are fully appraised by external consultants. In addition, DFID encourages all CSCF project partners to carry out a full evaluation towards the end of project. These evaluations are also fully appraised by our external consultants.

DFID also undertakes a number of field visits each year to a cross section of CSCF projects to verify the progress being made.

Colombia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with the US administration regarding political instability in Colombia. [7368]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not had direct discussions with the US Administration on political instability in Colombia.

The British and US Governments have regular discussions on issues of shared interest. The discussions include Colombia where we have a common interest in helping Colombia tackle the inter-connected problems of illegal drugs, armed conflict and human rights abuses. Britain and Colombia are also part of the G24, the group drawn from participants at the London Meeting of International Support to Colombia in July 2003 that meets regularly in Bogota to carry forward the relationship with and support to the Government of Colombia.

Female Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards access to reproductive education for women in third world countries. [6986]

Hilary Benn: The most recent assessment of progress is that contained in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Report: State of the World Population 2004: "The Cairo Consensus at Ten: Population Reproductive Health and the Global Effort to End Poverty". The report shows areas of progress in meeting the 1994 Cairo goal of ensuring universal voluntary access to a full range of reproductive health, education, information, care and services by 2015.

Many countries have established or are developing reproductive health programmes and are recognising also the links between female education and reproductive health. But millions of people—particularly poor women—still lack access to quality services, including accurate information, education and modern family planning methods. This is why DFID continues to give priority to supporting reproductive health and rights for women.

Global Environment Facility

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK is due to pay into the Global Environment Facility in 2005; how much has been contributed to date; and if he will make a statement. [7417]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides grants and concessional funds to help developing countries fund projects and programmes that protect the global environment. Established in 1991, the GEF is the designated financial mechanism for the international conventions on biodiversity, climate change, persistent organic pollutants and desertification. The GEF also supports projects that protect international waters and the ozone layer. Since 1991, the GEF has provided $4.5 billion in grants and generated $14.5 billion in co-financing from other partners for projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Donor nations commit funds to replenish the facility every four years. To date, DFID has contributed £89.5 million under the GEF 1 (1994–98) and £85.25 million under GEF 2 (1998–2002). Under GEF 3 (2002–06), DFID has committed to a core contribution of £103 million and provided an additional £15 million as a signal of our commitment to addressing global

environmental problems, making the UK the fourth largest donor to the facility. Therefore, in 2005–06, the UK will contribute £29.5million.

Negotiations for the fourth replenishment of the GEF (2006–10) began in June and will conclude in December 2005.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5116]

Mr. Thomas: I refer my hon. Friend to the response given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

Mozambique

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance he plans to give to Mozambique to establish *(a)* river and *(b)* coastal transport to improve its transport infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [6730]

Hilary Benn: The majority of DFID's financial assistance in Mozambique is provided directly to the Government of Mozambique to meet agreed poverty reduction priorities, of which infrastructure is one. DFID has no plans to provide specific support to improve either river or coastal transport in Mozambique.

Sri Lanka

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the role of his Department in the provision of relief aid in Sri Lanka. [5945]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have donated over £7 million directly to aid relief and recovery in Sri Lanka in the immediate aftermath of the Tsunami. DFID funded seven flights for the Disasters Emergency Committee, seconded four staff to help with relief work and made direct grants to United Nations Agencies and international non-governmental organisations to provide shelter, water sanitation equipment, food and other essential help to Tsunami victims. The secondments involved providing an air operations co-ordinator, two shelter advisers and an adviser to the United Nations Humanitarian Information Centre. DFID also provided a member of staff as part of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination team. Sri Lanka has also benefited from some of the £26.5 million disbursed as regional support to the UN, and the £50 million that the Treasury estimates will be given in tax relief on public contributions to the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal.

During the relief and recovery phase, DFID has supported the humanitarian work of Help Age, World Vision, Save the Children Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Sri Lankan Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Security Co-ordinator in the areas under LTTE control in the North and East of the island. The United Nations has commented that the relief effort in Tamil areas has been impressive. Our humanitarian advisers in-country are monitoring the international response and are confident that aid is getting to those in need.

In addition to providing relief assistance, DFID has agreed to meet the cost of 10 per cent. of the interest on Sri Lanka's debt repayments to the International Financial Institutions over the next 10 years. This support is expected to be worth some £41 million and will be used for post-tsunami and poverty-reduction work. Further financial support for longer-term reconstruction is under consideration. DFID stands ready to assist in the establishment of a Post Tsunami Operational Management Structure and a Post Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Plan.

The initial relief operation did go well, largely in all areas. However more needs to be done to allow the numerous donors to start reconstruction and to more actively involve affected communities in the planning of that process. The sheer amount of work required to obtain land has delayed the implementation of reconstruction. On my recent visit to the east and south of Sri Lanka I met with many families affected by the tsunami disaster and numerous national and international non-governmental organisations, United Nations and government officials working to support them.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the number of people returning to the South of Sudan; and what assistance is being provided for resettlement. [6818]

Hilary Benn: According to the United Nations (UN), 360,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) returned to Southern Sudan during 2004. This year the UN estimates that between 500,000 and 1.2 million people will return during 2005, including both IDPs and refugees from neighbouring countries. The UN is currently drawing up a returns plan that will detail the support returnees receive both during their journey and when then arrive home. We expect this will be released within the next few weeks. DFID has provided £45 million to the UN 2005 Workplan for Sudan, over half of which has been allocated by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator to support humanitarian operations and returns in the South.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian conditions of Ethiopian refugees who have settled in Pibor in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [6819]

Hilary Benn: According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the humanitarian conditions of the Ethiopian refugees in Pibor are very poor, but are no worse than the many other residents living in the area. The refugees originate from Gambella in Ethiopia and have settled with the agreement of

UNHCR and the State of Jonglei Government. There are approximately 500 refugees temporarily accommodated in an old school.

The UNHCR and the non-governmental organisation, the Swedish Free Mission (SFM) are assisting the refugees. SFM is providing shelter, water and sanitation. Food is mostly delivered via air drops by the World Food Programme. The Jonglei State Government have also provided the refugees with land to cultivate; the SFM will provide them with tools and seeds. The Department for International Development is providing £1.7 million to the NGO Medecins Sans Frontieres in the region for health assistance to the general population, including the refugees.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the UN High Commission on Refugees on children born and abandoned after rape in the Habila area of Sudan. [6820]

Hilary Benn: While I have not discussed this particular issue with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), I know that their staff in West Darfur are monitoring the situation closely and supporting victims of rape and their children. I have made clear to the authorities in Sudan that I deplore the occurrence of rape throughout the crisis in Darfur. It is clear that rape is under-reported due to fear of retribution and social stigma. During my recent visit to Sudan, I raised this in my meetings with UN representatives, and with the Sudanese Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and other Sudanese officials.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the level of repatriation of people from Chad to Sudan. [6821]

Hilary Benn: According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), most Sudanese refugees in Chad (numbered at an estimated 200,000) do not intend to return home this year, largely due to their lack of confidence in security in Darfur. However, according to UNHCR, over the last three months, around 20,000 people have spontaneously returned from Chad to Sudan. These people are returning from border areas rather than refugee camps; most of them appear to be returning to Darfur for the planting season rather than to settle permanently at this stage. It is essential that repatriation only occurs on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan on conflict between internally displaced persons and the police in Soba Aradi, Khartoum. [6844]

Hilary Benn: On 18 May around 15 people died when violence erupted in the Soba Aradi camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) south of Khartoum, when attempts were made to move the IDPs to a new camp. On 19 May, I issued a statement expressing the UK's grave concern and called on all sides to prevent any further loss of life. I urged the Government to respect the human rights of the IDPs, protect its citizens and bring those responsible to justice. I followed this up during my visit to Sudan between 12–14 June, and pressed the First Vice-President on the importance of improving relations between IDPs and local police.

The British ambassador in Khartoum also raised the incident with the Government, and pressed them to investigate the incident in consultation with the Joint National Transition Team under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and to take the necessary steps to prevent it happening in the future.

We have repeatedly made clear to the Government that all returns and relocations must be entirely voluntary and take place in line with the established international monitoring mechanisms that are in place.

Taxis

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6495]

Mr. Thomas: Figures for travel costs within administration costs budgets for years which information is readily available are shown as follows:

2004-05—£248,300

The figure provided includes costs for contracted taxi and privately arranged hire. It is not possible to disaggregate separate costs for taxis for earlier years without incurring a disproportionate cost. The information for earlier years is not readily available and in some cases will no longer be held.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in DFID's staff handbook, which reflects the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan (Deployment)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected levels of deployment to Afghanistan for his Department's personnel is by the *(a)* end of 2005, *(b)* middle of 2006 and *(c)* end of 2006. [6435]

Mr. Ingram: At the end of 2005 projected levels of deployment to Afghanistan will be very similar to current levels at around 1,000 personnel.

By the middle of 2006 the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) Group will have deployed to lead the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) for nine months from May 2006. We are also developing plans for the potential deployment offerees to the south of Afghanistan to enable the UK to play a key role in Stage 3 of ISAF expansion.

An announcement will be made to Parliament once decisions have been made.

Air Tanker Fleet

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the delivery dates are for the new air tanker fleet; from which air centre it will fly; and at which centre it will be serviced and repaired. [5762]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 17W, to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown).

Armoured Vehicle Training

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total public expenditure to date is on the private finance initiative with the Landmark Training Consortium to provide armoured vehicle training; whether this includes cancellation costs; and if he will make a statement. [6068]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Procurement Agency PFI assessment costs for the Armoured Vehicle Training Service (AVTS) was £5 million. This includes costs such as legal, technical and financial advice but not the Ministry of Defence internal costs. This is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. No cancellation costs have been incurred. I announced to the House by means of a written ministerial statement the way forward for AVTS on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 13WS.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications of the decision not to proceed with the Armoured Vehicle Training Services project under the private finance initiative for the eventual solutions for other training contracts. [6246]

Mr. Ingram: Since each PFI case is considered on its merits, no formal assessment has been made and in my written Statement to the House on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 13WS, I confirmed that although not continuing with the Armoured Vehicle Training Services PFI, the Ministry of Defence, supported by the Private Finance Unit, will continue to use PFI where it can be shown to deliver better value for money.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role a public-private partnership will play in the delivery of the Armoured Vehicle Training Services requirement. [6248]

Mr. Ingram: A revised procurement strategy is being worked up by the Defence Procurement Agency to deliver the requirement. No decisions have yet been made on public-private partnership forming part of the overall future solution.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the costs were of the assessment of the suitability of a private finance initiative solution for the Armoured Vehicle Training Services requirement. [6249]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Procurement Agency PFI assessment cost of the Armoured Vehicle Training Service was £5 million. This includes costs such as legal, technical and financial advice but not the Ministry of Defence internal costs. This is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether *(a)* BAE Systems Land Systems and *(b)* its contractors will be purchasing any of the (i) body (excluding armour) and (ii) drive components for the manufacture of the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle from (A) Iveco and (B) other non-UK contractors; [5364]

(2) what difference there is between the *(a)* body (excluding armour), *(b)* engine, *(c)* gearboxes, *(d)* drive mechanism and *(e)* wheels of the (i) Panther Command and Liaison vehicle and (ii) Italian Light Multirole Tactical vehicle. [5363]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom's Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle when compared to an Italian Light Multirole Tactical Vehicle in the same role would have no significant difference in the body, engine, gearbox, drive mechanism or wheels. BAE Systems Land Systems will purchase a complete base vehicle from Iveco. This will include the drive components and the vehicle body but will exclude the roof. The contractor for the supply of the vehicle roof will be determined by BAE Systems Land Systems before Panther enters full manufacture.

DEFCON 534

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what arrangements are in place to monitor his Department's contractors payments performance against their contractual requirements under DEFCON 534; [4249]

(2) whether DEFCON 534 is included in all of his Department's contracts. [4515]

Mr. Ingram: Unless it is known for certain from the outset that there will be no sub-contractor involvement it is policy to include this DEFCON in all contracts.

The Ministry of Defence has no centrally co-ordinated arrangement in place to monitor defence contractors' payments performance to their sub-contractors under the terms of DEFCON 534 as, due to the high number of contracts let by the Department, it would not be cost effective to do so. That said, where it is specifically relevant to the performance of an MOD contract, Integrated Project Teams can include a performance indicator to measure payment of sub-contractors in the Supplier and Customer Performance Measurement tool, a non-contractual tool implemented to measure performance on contracts with a value of £5 million or over.

In addition, in the autumn of 2001, MOD agreed with industry a set of Codes of Best Practice (MOD/Industry Commercial Policy Group Guideline no. 5) which include principles requiring Prime Contractors

"to pay promptly for work done in accordance with contracts made".

Departmental Research

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of opportunities for research and consulting disseminated by his Department resulted in *(a)* research reports and *(b)* deliverable projects in (i) 2001–02, (ii) 2002–03 and (iii) 2003–04. [3414]

Mr. Ingram: Details of the Department's spend on External Assistance of which consultancy is a part have been reported to Ministers since 1995–96 and

summaries, broken down by MOD Top Level Budget and category, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Research opportunities disseminated out of the MOD's own capabilities are an increasing feature of our programme. Historically, the majority of research was undertaken in-house. However, the substantial changes of structure from creating QinetiQ, as a private public partnership, and Dstl, as a Trading Fund, have allowed us to offer an increasing amount of opportunities to industry and academia.

The Department does not hold centrally information requested on how many and what percentage of such research and consulting resulted in *(a)* research reports and *(b)* deliverable projects. However, the Department's business processes ordinarily require reports to be generated from extramural consultancy and research. MOD's research generally provides knowledge for broad capability requirements rather than being focused on specific projects.

Food Procurement

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on public procurement of food in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what proportion of that expenditure was covered under Crown immunity on food safety matters. [5787]

Mr. Ingram: The amount spent on the procurement of food for the armed forces during financial year 2004–05 was approximately £134 million, excluding the cost of Operational Ration Packs.

The Food Safety Act (1990) applies in England, Scotland and Wales, and to a limited extent in Northern Ireland and has applied to MOD premises since the removal of Crown immunity on 1 April 1992. Therefore, none of the food supplied to the armed forces, in terms of cost or volume, is covered under Crown Immunity.

FRES

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce confirmed contracts for the Future Rapid Effects System. [6067]

Mr. Ingram: To date, two Technology Demonstrator Programmes (TOP) have been awarded—for Capacity and Stowage (with Dstl) and Hard Kill Defensive Aid Suite (with Akers Kutbruk). Contracts are currently being negotiated in respect of Chassis Concepts, Electronic Architecture and Electric Armour. In addition, tender assessment of Integrated Survivability is under way; an Invitation to Tender has been issued for a Gap Crossing TDP; and a TDP to assess Regenerative Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) is likely to proceed shortly.

Contracts will be awarded when mutually acceptable terms and conditions have been agreed, and formal announcements will be made in due course.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the total cost of the Future Rapid Effects System; when he expects it to be in-service; and if he will make a statement. [6069]

Mr. Ingram: The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) is in its initial Assessment Phase. Studies being carried out during this phase will enable us to define programme costs and an appropriate in-service date (ISD) for endorsement at the main investment decision.

The ISD will not be formally endorsed until then, but our current planning assumption is that the early variants of FRES will be introduced to service early in the next decade, with a phased approach to achieving full operational capability thereafter.

Exact costs have yet to be established, however the expected procurement cost of FRES is potentially in the order of £14 billion, subject to the confirmation of current planning assumptions.

Future Aircraft Carrier Project

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to make public the findings of the 100-day review into the Future Aircraft Carrier (CVF) project. [6243]

Mr. Ingram: The 100 day plan is the most recent programme review undertaken as part of Assessment Phase activities on the Future Aircraft Carrier project. The Alliance Participants—MOD, BAE Systems, Thales UK and Kellogg Brown and Root Ltd. UK—have worked together to complete the review on time and Ministers are currently considering the report's findings. Given the commercial sensitivity of much of the information, it was never our intention to publish the report in its entirety. Its outcome will, however, feature prominently in future decision making and the arrangements for the Demonstration and Manufacture Phase.

Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships the Royal Navy can dock at Gibraltar at any one time. [7202]

Mr. Ingram: British Forces Gibraltar has seven operational berths, two of which are classified as Z berths capable of supporting nuclear powered warships (NPW). The number of vessels that could be supported at any one time would depend on size, draught, and their compatibility to berth ships alongside each other, the level of support required and the presence of any NPW.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's percentage land holding in Gibraltar is, broken down by service use. [7204]

Mr. Ingram: The current size of the Ministry of Defence estate in Gibraltar is 149.9 hectares and this represents 22.9 per cent. of the total land area. This calculation includes those sites already transferred to the Gibraltar Government under the Lands Agreement signed between the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chief Minister in April 2004. When the implementation of this Agreement is complete (expected to be during 2010), the size of the estate will have reduced to 118.9 hectares or 18.18 per cent. of Gibraltar's total land area.

It is impossible to break these figures down into individual service use, because of the tri-service nature of operations in Gibraltar.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval ships from other countries have docked at Gibraltar in the last three years. [7209]

Mr. Ingram: 38 warships from other countries docked in Gibraltar during the last three years. 10 other warships conducted bay transfers of stores and/or personnel with Gibraltar during this time; however, they did not dock alongside.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the planned implementation of his Department's contractorisation plan for Gibraltar on *(a)* number of jobs available in his Department and *(b)* number of remaining personnel employed directly by his Department; what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that its contractor will be able to pay its creditors' taxes and redundancy payments; and what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that local jobs are retained; and if he will make a statement. [3450]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently around 296 locally employed civilian posts in scope to transfer under the Infrastructure Service Provider (ISP) Contract. It is not possible to say how many posts the successful contractor will retain until the bids have been evaluated and a contractor selected.

The total number of locally employed civilian (LEC) staff in Gibraltar is approximately 1,000. The ISP will represent a 30 per cent. reduction of the locally employed staff in Gibraltar.

As a part of the selection process, the MOD will ensure that only companies capable of delivering their legal and contractual obligations will be invited to tender.

The Ministry of Defence is bound by and follows the laws of Gibraltar pertaining to recruitment. For those staff transferred to the successful ISP contractor, the provisions of the acquired rights directive (similar to TUPE provisions) activated under Gibraltar Law will apply.

Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters in each class are *(a)* available for use, *(b)* under repair and *(c)* redundant or unrepairable. [6009]

Mr. Ingram: The following table provides details of the in-service helicopters that are available for use, under repair, redundant or unrepairable as at 1 June 2005:

Helicopter type	*Available for use*	*Under repair*	*Unrepairable/ Redundant*
Chinook Mk 2/2a	40	13	None
Lynx Mk 7	60	22	16
Lynx Mk 9	15	7	2
Lynx Mk 3	23	8	8
Lynx Mk 8	24	10	2
Merlin Mk 1	29	13	2
Merlin Mk 3	15	7	None
Puma Mk 1	31	7	8
Gazelle Mk 1	107	None	12
Sea King Mk 3	13	6	None
Sea King Mk 3a	4	2	None
Sea King Mk 4	29	8	None
Sea King Mk 5	13	3	1
Sea King Mk 6	3	2	40
Sea King Mk 6c	5	None	None
Sea King Mk 7	9	2	None
Apache AH Mk1	56	11	None
Agusta A109	4	None	None

In addition to the aircraft listed in the table, the department contracts for a Commercially Owned Military Registered (COMR) fleet of helicopters. These helicopters are on the Military Register and flown by military aircrew, but are owned and maintained by commercial operators, these are shown in the following table. Servicing of the COMR helicopters is the responsibility of the leasing agency.

Helicopter type	*Available for use*	*Under repair*	*Unrepairable/ Redundant*
Bell 412	15	None	None
Bell 212	7	None	None
Dauphin	2	None	None
Single Squirrel	37	None	None
Twin Squirrel	3	None	None

Iran (Naval Equipment)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to recover the naval equipment held by the Iranian authorities; and if he will make a statement. [2974]

Mr. Ingram: Diplomatic discussions are ongoing.

Iraq

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the British Deputy Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq referred to in a letter from the former Minister of State to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr submitted regular reports to his British superiors; [235]

(2) what the remit was of the British Deputy in the office of the Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq in relation to *(a)* detainees and *(b)* operational matters; [238]

(3) for what reasons and in what capacity Colonel Chris Terrington saw a version of the CJTF-7 Interrogation and Counter-Resistance policy document in December 2003; [237]

(4) which *(a)* sections and *(b)* drafts of the interrogation and counter-resistance policy document were seen by the British Deputy Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq; and what comments he made; [239]

(5) whether the UK officer acting as Deputy Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq advised *(a)* the US authorities and *(b)* his supervisors in the chain of command that some of the interrogation techniques in the CJIF-7 Interrogation and Counter-Resistance Policy Document

(i) were inhumane under UK case law and (ii) constituted a potential breach of the Geneva Conventions in the view of the Government; [271]

(6) whether the British deputy in the office of the Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq asked Major George O'Kane to investigate allegations of abuse at Abu Ghraib; [273]

(7) whether the British deputy in the office of the Senior Judge Advocate in Iraq saw the International Committee of the Red Cross working paper based on a visit to Abu Ghraib in October 2003. [274]

Mr. Ingram: I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions of 23 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 24–25W, on the role of UK staff embedded within the office of the Staff Judge Advocate in the Combined Joint Task Force 7. I wrote to you on 16 June correcting an inaccuracy in a previous letter and attaching responses to these outstanding Parliamentary Questions. I am writing to you again now to set out in the body of a letter the answers I gave you so that they can be published in the *Official Report*.

The British Officer embedded within the office of the Staff Judge Advocate had a very limited role in relation to detainees. In addition to providing comments on a US interrogation policy document in August 2003, he produced a summary of an ICRC Report in November 2003, which was circulated to senior personnel within CJTF-7. With regard to operational law, he provided advice on targeting and operational planning at Corps level. This involved the application of the Laws of Armed Conflict and US Rules of Engagement.

The British Officer recalls submitting reports, both orally and in writing, to his British superiors. We have not been able to locate copies of those reports.

The British Officer did not ask Major O'Kane to investigate allegations of abuse at Abu Ghraib.

We have established that the British Officer did not see a version of the CJTF-7 "Interrogation and Counter-Resistance" policy. The British Officer played no part in drafting that policy. This is contrary to my letter of 31 January 2005. I apologise for the error. In fact, the British Officer saw a separate US interrogation policy document dated 27 August 2003.

That Document was entitled "ABU GHURAYB: Saddam Fedayeen Interrogation Facility (SFIF) Detainee Interrogation Policy". We understand that it was drafted to apply to one section within Abu Ghraib, and the Fay report confirms that it was quickly superseded by the September version of the Interrogation and Counter-Resistance" policy, which we have not seen.

It sets out a range of interrogation techniques which were considered to be lawful under the prevailing US interpretation of the Geneva Conventions. The document was written by and for US personnel to whom the US interpretation applied. The document was passed to us in confidence, and we cannot release details of its contents.

I am placing a copy of this answer in the Library of the House.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what action has been taken on unexploded ordnance in the region of Iraq where the UK has responsibility; how much has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent to date by the UK for this purpose; how much ordnance has been destroyed; what estimate has been made of unexploded ordnance still to be dealt with in the area; and if he will make a statement. [2919]

Mr. Ingram: The UK takes seriously its obligations to deal with unexploded ordnance in Iraq. Since the end of major combat operations, a UK Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (currently about 90 strong) has been deployed alongside other coalition forces, NGOs and contractors clearing sites containing unexploded ordnance. During the war fighting phase over 200,000 items of munitions were destroyed by coalition teams. Since then a further 860,000 items have been recovered or destroyed by UK teams. The UK has uncovered 67 formal ammunition depots in the region of Iraq where the UK has responsibility. The UK has currently cleared 64 of these depots; the final three are in the process of being cleared.

The Department for International Development has provided further funding to this area through UN-related organisations and a UK-registered charity, Mines Advisory Group. £30 million has been provided to the United Nations Development Group International Trust Fund to support Explosive Ordnance Disposal capacity building and clearance. In addition, £4 million has been directed to the United Nations Mines Action Service to provide the UN's humanitarian agencies with a responsive and co-ordinated mine action capability to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Further funding of around £2 million has been directed through the Mines Advisory Group to facilitate a number of projects.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for withdrawing UK troops from Iraq. [7606]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom is committed to remaining in Iraq for as long as the Iraqi Government judge that the coalition is required to provide security and assist the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The prevailing security situation, progress on the political process and development of the ISF will be factors in determining the timeline for eventual UK force level reductions.

Iraq/Afghanistan

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* US soldiers and *(b)* UK soldiers have been killed in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each month since the end of the wars in those countries. [5044]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* Since the end of decisive operations in Iraq was announced in May 2003, a total of 53 UK soldiers have died.

Since the Bonn agreement was signed in December 2001, four UK soldiers have died in Afghanistan.

The following table shows the monthly breakdown.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	—	—	—	3(1)	10
February	—	—	—	1	0
March	—	—	—	0	1
April	—	(1)	—	0	0
May	—	—	2	0	2
June	—	—	6	1	—
July	—	—	1	1	—
August	—	(2)	6	4	—
September	—	—	1	3	—
October	—	—	1	2	—
November	—	—	1	4	—
December	—	—	2	1	—

Note:
Figures in brackets relate to deaths in Afghanistan; all other figures refer to deaths in Iraq.

The number of US soldiers that have died on operations is a matter for the US Government.

Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the UK has contributed to the development costs of the Joint Strike Fighter; and what further pre-delivery payments will be required. [6830]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom's financial commitment to the current Systems Design and Development phase is limited to $2 billion. No further pre-delivery payments have been agreed.

Joint US Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many munitions were fired by RAF aircraft in support of US forces during their involvement in Operation Spear; [6890]

(2) what the rules of engagement were for UK forces deployed in support of the recent US Operation Spear in north-western Iraq; [6888]

(3) how many sorties were flown by UK aircraft in support of the recent US Operation Spear in north-western Iraq; [6887]

(4) how many RAF tornadoes were used in support of the recent US Operation Spear in Iraq; and which mark of tornado was deployed; [6886]

(5) if he will list the UK forces used in support of the recent US Operation Spear in north-western Iraq. [6885]

Mr. Ingram: No specific sorties were planned in support of Operation Spear although three RAF Tornado GR4s on routine patrols were tasked to respond to calls for assistance from US forces during the operation. UK aircraft did not expend any weapons in support of Operation Spear. We do not comment on rules of engagement for reasons of operational security.

Lynx Mk 3/8 Helicopter

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 442W, on the Royal Navy, what the expected out-of-service date is for the Lynx Mk 3/8 helicopter. [6482]

Mr. Ingram: The expected out-of-service date for the Lynx Mk 3 is 2012 and for the Lynx Mk 8 is 2014.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average time is that an hon. Member has waited for a meeting with him to be arranged since his appointment. [7618]

John Reid: Together with my ministerial colleagues, I endeavour to meet with hon. Members at the earliest possible opportunity after I receive a request, consistent with my other diary commitments.

NAO Report

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timescale is for responding to the National Audit Office report on military preparedness; what form his response will take; and if he will make a statement. [6011]

John Reid: The Ministry of Defence welcomes the National Audit Office report on Assessing and Reporting Military Readiness which concludes that the MOD has a good system for reporting the readiness levels of the armed forces, an increasingly good understanding of the risks to readiness and good plans in place to mitigate these risks.

We are already taking forward work in the areas covered by the NAO's recommendations for further technical improvements in our internal risk management arrangements and in the public reporting of readiness under our public service agreement. Information on the readiness of our armed forces is routinely available on the MOD website at www.mod.uk and this shows that at the end of March no forces were reporting critical weakness which would make it impossible to deploy them on new operations if required. The National Audit Office reports to Parliament. The Department will respond to any recommendations that the Public Accounts Committee might make, if they choose to do so, in due course.

Omagh Resident Battalion

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria were used when deciding whether to replace the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borders at Omagh when they conclude their term as the Omagh Resident Battalion in August 2006. [7155]

Mr. Ingram: The decision not to replace the 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers at Omagh when they conclude their term as the Omagh Resident Battalion in August 2006 was based on the assessment by the General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland) and Chief Constable Police Service

of Northern Ireland (PSNI) of the improving security situation. It reflects the increasing success of the PSNI in dealing with the threat from terrorism without routine military support.

The Army remains committed to providing the support that the PSNI requires to counter the threat from terrorism and to prevent potential public disorder, and will continue to keep force levels in Northern Ireland under regular review.

Portsmouth Nuclear Accident Plan

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make available in the Library a copy of the Portsmouth nuclear accident plan. [6794]

Mr. Ingram: In the highly unlikely event of a nuclear incident, in accordance with the independent national regulations, the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) 2001, the city of Portsmouth is covered by a detailed emergency plan (PORTSAFE) for which the local authority (Portsmouth city council) is responsible. This is available locally in public libraries and can also be obtained by contacting the Portsmouth city council emergency planning officer.

Prisoners of War (Compensation)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the memorandum of 13 July 2001 from Mr. Alan Mayers of the Department's Far East Prisoners of War Group to Mr. John Hardy, Army Historical Branch, which states that race was included as a deciding factor in the eligibility criteria for the compensation scheme. [6071]

Mr. Touhig: This document was a statement by one official in 2001. It did not and does not represent the view of the Government. The question of whether the application of one of the eligibility criteria of the Ex Gratia Payment Scheme for Far East Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees may have constituted race discrimination is the subject of judicial review proceedings.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2004 in the Cabinet Office concerning the Far East Prisoners of War Compensation Scheme which agreed that the eligibility criteria should define UK nationals as civilian internees who were British at the time of their incarceration. [6072]

Mr. Touhig: There was no meeting of the inter-departmental working group in the Cabinet Office on 22 November 2004 to discuss the Ex Gratia Payment Scheme for former Far East Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees and it is assumed that this question relates to the meeting held on 22 November 2000. The question under consideration at that meeting was whether eligibility relied on an applicant having been British at the time of internment or at the time of making a claim under the Ex Gratia Payment Scheme. The decision taken was that the relevant date was the time of captivity and that any subsequent change of nationality did not affect eligibility.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* class and role, *(b)* date of entry into service, *(c)* expected date of removal from service and *(d)* average annual cost of maintenance over the period of service is of each ship of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and if he will make a statement. [6169]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is shown as follows:

Ship	*In service date*	*Expected out of service date*[1]	*Class*	*Role*
Argus	1988	2020	—	Aviation Training Ship and Primary Casualty Reception Ship
Diligence	1984	2014	—	Forward Repair Ship
Grey Rover	1970	2006	Rover	Small Fleet Tanker
Gold Rover	1974	2009		
Black Rover	1974	2010		
Oakleaf	1986	2010	Leaf	Support Tanker
Brambleleaf	1980	2009		
Orangeleaf	1984	2009		
Bayleaf	1982	2010		
Fort Rosalie	1978	2013	Fort	Fleet Replenishment Ships
Fort Austin	1979	2014		
Fort George	1994	2019		
Fort Victoria	1994	2019		
Sir Bedivere	1967	2011	Sir	Landing Ship Logistic
Sir Tristram	1967	2006		
Sir Galahad	1987	2006		
Wave Knight	2003	2028	Wave	Fleet Tanker
Wave Ruler	2003	2028		

[1] These dates are kept under regular review in the light of the Royal Navy's requirements.

Detailed records of the cost of maintaining each ship over its entire service are not held. However, the average cost of maintenance is estimated at £3.5 million per annum for each vessel. This includes maintenance on operational vessels, defect rectification, post design work, stock consumption and small packages of

upkeep. In addition an element has been included to reflect the cost of scheduled refits, which are generally undertaken on a five yearly basis for each vessel.

Sandhurst (Security Breach)

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to receive the report from the Commandant, concerning the breach of security by a Sun reporter at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. [6601]

John Reid *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The Commandant has already taken a number of measures to enhance security at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in particular to ensure that all visitors are escorted at all times. Separately the Adjutant General has directed a detailed review of security procedures and processes. This is expected to conclude within a matter of weeks. I am being kept informed of the progress of this review.

Service Personnel

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel are *(a)* deployed and *(b)* stationed in (i) Germany, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) Bosnia-Herzegovina, (iv) Croatia, (v) Kosovo, (vi) Albania, (vii) the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, (viii) Sierra Leone, (ix) the Gulf Region, (x) Turkey, (xi) Gibraltar, (xii) Belize, (xiii) Kenya, (xiv) Canada, (xv) the Falkland Islands, (xvi) Cyprus, (xvii) Brunei and (xviii) Afghanistan. [2663]

Mr. Ingram: The approximate number of British service personnel deployed or stationed in the locations specified are shown as follows:

All figures rounded

	Deployed	*Stationed*
Germany	0	22,200
Northern Ireland	0	10,400
Bosnia-Herzegovina	750	0
Croatia	0	0
Kosovo	170	0
Albania	0	0
FYR of Macedonia	10	0
Sierra Leone	10	0
The Gulf Region	9,200	0
Turkey	0	0
Gibraltar	0	560
Belize	0	50
Kenya (training team only)	0	10
Canada (training team only)	0	220
The Falkland Islands	1,150	0
Cyprus	300	2,900
Brunei	0	430
Afghanistan	980	0

The figures in the table do not include personnel serving in loan/diplomatic posts or training detachments.

Training Contracts (PFI)

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the training contracts being considered for private finance initiative solutions. [6247]

Mr. Ingram: A number of requirements are being considered under the private finance initiative which include an element of training provision. These are:

Royal School of Military Engineering—a contract to provide training facilities and construction engineering training for the Royal Engineers.

Defence Training Review—contracts to meet rationalisation objectives while providing in-service specialised military training needs.

Military Flying Training Service—a contract to provide a comprehensive flying training system, some of which may be provided via a PFI route.

A400M Synthetic Training Service—a contract for the provision of training for transport aircraft aircrew.

Battlefield Reconnaissance Helicopter Service Combatant Maritime Rotorcraft Synthetic Training Service—a contract for the provision of training for helicopter aircrew.

Training Exercises (Uzbekistan)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises UK military forces have undertaken with Uzbekistan military forces in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [6741]

Mr. Ingram: In the last five years the United Kingdom forces have undertaken one exercise with the armed forces of Uzbekistan. Exercise TIMUR EXPRESS, a peacekeeping exercise, took place in Uzbekistan from 11 September 2004 to 25 September 2004. It was a company-level exercise, and the 146-person UK element was provided by the Territorial Army. The other states involved were Kazakhstan, Georgia and Ukraine.

Troop Deployment (Basra)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has held concerning the deployment of UK troops outside the Basra area; and if he will make a statement. [5012]

Mr. Ingram: The posture of United Kingdom forces in Iraq is kept under constant review. UK forces are already deployed "outside the Basra area", predominately in other parts of Multi-National Division (South East) but also in Baghdad as part of the Multi-National Force—Iraq Headquarters and the NATO Training Mission-Iraq. There are no current plans to change existing UK force dispositions in Iraq.

Uzbekistan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel from the armed forces of Uzbekistan have been trained in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997; and where this training took place. [6995]

Mr. Ingram: Since 1997, personnel from the armed forces of Uzbekistan have been trained in the United Kingdom as follows:

Individual Officer Training at RAF Cranwell

Two cadets in 2004–05

Individual Officer Training at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Two cadets in 2004–05

Arms Control Training at RAF Henlow

Three personnel in January 2000

Crisis Management Training at Defence Academy Shrivenham

One Army Major in April 2000

Peace Support Operations Doctrine Seminar at Land Warfare Centre, Warminster

Three personnel in May 2000

Seminar on UK Methodology for Military Aid, at Defence Academy Shrivenham

One Lieutenant Colonel in July 2000

War-Fighting Doctrine Seminar, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster

One Lieutenant Colonel in May 1999

International Collective Training Seminar, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster

One Army Major in February 2003, three in June 2004

Service Personnel Management Course, at Headquarters Army Training and Recruitment Agency, Upavon

One Army Major in July 2004

Course on Managing Defence in a Democracy, Defence Academy Shrivenham

One Lieutenant Colonel in July 2003

MSc in Global Security, at Defence Academy Shrivenham

One Lieutenant Colonel, August 2003 to August 2004

Territorial Army Summer Camps

Two Uzbek cadets in September 2003, six in July 2004

NCO Training Seminar at Infantry Training Centre, Brecon

Two personnel in February 2004

All the listed training is predicated on the ability of the participants to speak English. Consequently, the following numbers of Uzbek officers have received language training:

British Military English Course, at the University of Ripon and York St. John's

21 personnel trained between April 1999 and June 2005

English Military Vocabulary course, at Defence School of Languages, Beaconsfield

One Army Major in May 2003

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started, *(b)* on programme and *(c)* completed in (i) 2002–03, (ii) 2003–04 and (iii) 2004–05. [6652]

Phil Hope: The information requested is routinely published by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in Statistical First Releases (SFRs). The numbers of starts and the number on programme (in-learning) on apprenticeships in 2002/03, 2003/04 and the first three months of 2004/05 are shown in tables 4 and 5 of the LSC SFR "Further Education, Work Based Learning for Young People and Adult and Community Learning—Learner Numbers in England on 1 October 2004", available on the DfES website: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000567/index.shtml

Apprenticeship framework completion rates and the total number of leavers in 2002/03 and 2003/04 will be shown in table 7 of the forthcoming LSC SFR "Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People—Learner Outcomes in England: 2003/04", due to be published at 9.30 am on 28 June, and will be available on the DfES website: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000583/index.shtml

Provisional figures for the first six months of 2004/05 are available on the LSC's apprenticeships website: http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/partners/frameworks/apprenticeshipsdata

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding has been allocated towards achieving the target of 320,000 apprentices by 2008; and whether she expects the target to be achieved. [7392]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have a target for the number of apprenticeships in 2008. However, we are committed to the continued expansion of apprenticeships, and if growth continues along its current lines, we would expect around 300,000 apprenticeships to be in training by that time.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many apprenticeships there were in each year between 1994 and 1996. [7551]

Bill Rammell: Apprenticeships, formerly Modern Apprenticeships, were launched as an initiative in September 1994. By the end of July 1995, there were 2,100 people on apprenticeship programmes. They were fully operational from September 1995 and at the end of July 1996, there were 35,100 people on them. These figures are taken from the DfES Statistical First Release "Government Supported, Work Based Learning for Young People in England: 2001/02", available on the DfES website: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000358/index.shtml.

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many training courses for those working with people with autistic spectrum disorders are funded through learning and skills councils in *(a)* Staffordshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England. [4416]

Maria Eagle: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Lady with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Business Support (Hertfordshire)

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures she is taking to encourage vocational skills training in Hertfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [756]

Phil Hope: Specific measures to encourage vocational skills training in Hertfordshire are a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

The Government's Skills Strategy, "21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential" (July 2003) and "Skills: Getting on in business, getting on at work" (March 2005) set out our plans for increasing opportunities for adults to develop their skills. The 14–19 White Paper, "14–19 Education and Skills", published in February, set out proposals to improve vocational education and qualifications for young people through a national entitlement to specialised diplomas in 14 broad sector areas. Employers, through Sector Skills Councils, will lead in their design and higher education institutions will also have an important role to play.

Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. Charles Walker, dated 8 June 2005:

Thank you for your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills where you ask what measures she will take to encourage vocational skills training in Hertfordshire. The Secretary of State has asked me to reply on her behalf as Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council.

In its Strategic Area Review, the LSC for Hertfordshire recognises that the depth and breadth of vocational learning in Hertfordshire is limited. It is working with partners to develop vocational provision for 14–16 year olds. For example, the Increased Flexibility Programme offers young people the opportunity to undertake vocational qualifications, usually undertaking some work at the local College. Nearly 1,500 Hertfordshire young people are currently on the programme. The LSC is also supporting collaboration between schools and colleges for 16–19 year olds, with Colleges leading on developing the vocational elements. Excellent examples of this work can be seen in Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage, with encouraging developments in Hemel Hempstead, Broxbourne and St. Albans. In Bishops Stortford, Hertford Regional College is working with Birchwood High School to develop vocational provision on the school site, with funding support from the LSC.

In many parts of Hertfordshire the Further Education infrastructure is in an unsatisfactory condition. The LSC has supported the development of facilities for Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities at Ware, and for construction at Broxbourne (which is due to open this September). Major campus redevelopments are being planned at 3 of Hertfordshire's 4 Colleges—Oaklands, West Herts and Hertford Regional. Plans for establishing a "Skills Centre" in Hemel Hempstead are also being developed with West Herts College, working closely with the Dacorum schools.

Working with employers, The LSC has established Sector Employer Groups in key sectors for the Hertfordshire economy. These are providing employers with a voice for expressing their needs, and a means of communicating with learning providers so that relevant provision is developed and delivered. We are also working with the University of Hertfordshire and the four Hertfordshire Further Education Colleges to increase the number and range of Foundation Degrees offered in the County through the Colleges and the University of Hertfordshire. We expect to have Foundation Degrees in nine subjects available by September 2005.

I trust this helps with your query.

Community Development Centres

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans her Department has for the funding for Community Development Centres in *(a)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency and *(b)* England. [4033]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Cumbria county council's Adult Education Service currently contracts with Community Development Centres, a local term used in Cumbria, to describe sites located in primary schools which deliver adult learning courses covering a range of subjects with a significant focus on IT. How such education is organised is a matter for the county council. Its Adult Education Service is in regular dialogue with LSC Cumbria about how its provision can contribute to local, regional and national priorities. These include supporting adults to improve their literacy and numeracy skills and to engage with learning locally, so that in due course they can progress towards gaining a Level 2 qualification. Community Development Centres, as present in Cumbria, are not generally found across England.

Consultants

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how the Department intends to take forward the recommendations of its auditors' report into the use of consultants in the Department. [6348]

Bill Rammell: DfES management have agreed an action plan with internal audit to address the issues raised by the joint National Audit Office and DfES internal audit report on Engagement and Use of Consultants in DfES. The agreed actions, which are being implemented, will be monitored by DfES internal audit in the course of their normal follow-up procedures.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the recommendations of the auditors' report on the use of consultants in the Department. [6349]

Bill Rammell: The joint National Audit Office and DfES internal audit review of Engagement and Use of Consultants identified shortcomings in compliance with departmental guidance. An action plan to address issues identified in the audit has been agreed with DfES management This will be monitored by DfES internal audit as part of their normal follow up procedures.

Additionally, the National Audit Office and internal audit have prepared a good practice guide on the engagement and use of consultants which has been distributed to all divisions in the Department. A copy of this guide will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Dyslexia

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school children in Lancashire had dyslexia in the last period for which figures are available. [6603]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Pupils with specific learning difficulties have a particular difficulty in learning to read, write, spell or manipulate numbers and this includes pupils with dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia. We do not collect

data on dyslexia alone, but provisional figures as at January 2005 indicate that there were 2,000 pupils in maintained primary, secondary and special schools with specific learning difficulties in Lancashire local education authority area.

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teenagers in Leeds West have received the education maintenance allowance; what the average award has been; and how much has been received in total. [3395]

Maria Eagle: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom to Mr. John Battle, dated 16 June 2005:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked "the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in the Leeds West Area, what the average award has been and how much has been received in total."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received EMA is available at Local Authority level, but not at constituency level. By the end of May 2005, 5,606 young people in the Leeds Local Authority area had received one or more EMA payments.

EMA is awarded in three defined payment bands of £30, £20 and £10, depending on household income. In Leeds Local Authority the take-up of EMA by payment band is split as follows: 78% on £30 per week, 10% on £20 per week and 12% on £10 per week (based on an analysis of young people attending a school or college in the Leeds Local Authority area). This breakdown is very similar to the national average.

We do not break down cost data to show specifically how much is spent in each Local Authority area. The total cost of EMA payments during the academic year 2004/2005 in England at 31 May 2005 was approximately £206,000,000.

I hope this information is helpful and addresses your question. If you would like further details please contact Chris Bradley at the LSC National Office on 0114 207 4512 or Christopher.bradley@lsc.gov.uk

Paternity Leave

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans the Government have to change provisions for paternity leave; [7133]

(2) what plans the Government have to introduce shared parental leave in the second six months after a child's birth. [7135]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Government want to give families more choice about how to balance their work and caring responsibilities. The "Work and Families: Choice and Flexibility" consultation sought views on how to enable fathers to share a proportion of the mother's maternity leave and pay. We are currently considering the responses to the consultation and will respond in due course.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research the Government have commissioned on the percentage of fathers who would stay home to look after children if it was financially viable to do so. [7134]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The DTI part funded the Equal Opportunities Commission's report "Fathers and the First Year" which was published on 16 June 2005. The report indicates that almost 80 per cent. of working fathers surveyed said they would be happy to stay at home and look after their child, but did not provide any information as to whether financial considerations affected that response.

Prison Education

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 490W, on prison education, what the targets are for numbers of offenders acquiring Basic Skills Level qualifications beyond *(a)* entry level, *(b)* level 1 and *(c)* level 2; and how many offenders acquired these qualifications in each year since 2002. [7380]

Phil Hope: The framework for basic skills qualifications is set out in "Skills for Life", the national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy skills. That document contains no basic skills level qualifications beyond level 2 and therefore, as part of our aim to bring offender learning and skills in line with mainstream learning and skills provision, there are no targets for basic skills achievements by offenders in qualifications beyond entry level and levels 1 and 2.

Sector Skills Councils

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the date of licence of each Sector Skills Council is, listed in chronological order; what employment sector each covers; how many employers each covers; and what the most recent annual budget was of each. [6653]

Phil Hope: The following table provides information on Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) which are independent organisations. The number of employers is a broad estimate and excludes sole traders. The amount of public funding each SSC receives through the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) is detailed as follows on an accruals basis, for the year ending 31 March 2005. However, the information about the budgets of each SSC is commercially confidential as most generate significant amounts of external funding.

SSC	Month licensed	Sector/industry covered	Employers Covered	SSDA funding 2004-05 (£000)
e-Skills UK	April 2003	IT, telecoms and contact centres	133,655	5,594
SEMTA	April 2003	Science, engineering and manufacturing technologies	66,428	2,937
ConstructionSkills	September 2003	Construction	213,184	3,166
SkillsActive	October 2003	Active leisure and learning	24,843	1,876
Automotive Skills	December 2003	Retail, maintenance and repair motor industry	76,284	2,225

SSC	Month licensed	Sector/industry covered	Employers Covered	SSDA funding 2004-05 (£000)
Energy and Utility Skills	December 2003	Electricity, gas, water, and waste management	15,786	1,782
SummitSkills	December 2003	Building services engineering	50,213	1,981
Skillfast-UK	January 2004	Apparel, footwear and textiles	28,065	2,208
Skillset	January 2004	Broadcast, film, video and media	25,208	3,071
Cogent Plus	February 2004	Chemical, nuclear, oil and gas extraction, petroleum and polymer	20,114	2,080
Skills for Logistics	February 2004	Freight logistics	63,490	1,519
Financial Services Skills Council	April 2004	Financial services	45,289	2,079
Lantra	April 2004	Environmental and land based	13,943	2,569
People 1st	April 2004	Hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism	184,105	2,422
Skills for Health	April 2004	Health sector	45,047	1,809
Skills for Justice	April 2004	Custodial care, community justice and Police	4,745	2,245
Improve Ltd	June 2004	Food and drink	9,565	2,538
Asset Skills	September 2004	Property, housing, cleaning and facilities management	121,853	1,789
Skillsmart	September 2004	Retail	279,533	2,640
GoSkills	November 2004	Passenger transport	18,125	1,827
Lifelong Learning UK	January 2005	Learning delivery	24,575	1,533
Skills for Care and Development	February 2005	Social care, children and young people	57,477	569
Creative and Cultural Skills	June 2005	Museums, music, crafts, galleries and arts	37,940	879

Special Educational Needs/Tribunals

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the future of *(a)* Mayfield and *(b)* Astley special schools in Chorley. [6613]

Maria Eagle: Under arrangements introduced in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the consideration of proposals for establishing, altering, or discontinuing maintained special schools are a matter for local decision making.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many special schools there are in Lancashire education authority; and if she will make a statement on the long-term provision of special needs education in Lancashire. [6614]

Maria Eagle: "Removing Barriers to Achievement", our SEN strategy, provides a clear long-term vision for improving support and outcomes for children with SEN. It sets out action to ensure that children with SEN receive the help they need as quickly as possible, from schools and other services. The SEN strategy was informed by a review of special schools. Special schools have a vital role teaching children with the most severe and complex needs, and sharing expertise with mainstream schools.

In January 2005 there were 32 maintained special schools in Lancashire local education authority. The schools are listed as follows.

School number	
119860	Burnley Calder View Special School
119861	Bleasdale House Community Special School
119863	Burnley Westway School
119864	Sherburn School
119865	Moorfield School
119866	Moorbrook School
119869	Massey Hall School
119870	Elms School
119872	Burnley Primrose Hill School
119873	Wennington Hall School
119876	Morecambe Road School
119877	Chorley Astley Park School
119878	Great Arley School
119879	Rawtenstall Cribden House Community Special School
119880	Lostock Hall Moor Hey School
119881	Colne Gibfield School
119882	North Cliffe School
119883	Oswaldtwistle Broadfield School
119886	Black Moss School
119887	Kirkham Pear Tree School
119889	Mayfield School
119890	Nelson Townhouse School
119891	Tor View School
119892	The Loyne School
119893	The Coppice School
119894	Oswaldtwistle White Ash School
119895	Brookfield School
119897	Thornton-Cleveleys Red Marsh School
119898	Beacon School
131093	Kingsbury School
131479	Hillside School, Longridge
133688	Royal Cross Primary School

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 593W, on special needs tribunals, in how many cases appellants *(a)* were successful, *(b)* were unsuccessful, *(c)* withdrew their cases and *(d)* settled cases outside tribunal, broken down by local education authority. [6965]

Maria Eagle: We do not collect information in this format; cases settled outside the tribunal result in a parental withdrawal or LEA concession, so data is provided under those two heads.

The following table shows appeal outcomes by LEA for the reporting year 2003-04. It shows the number of appeals withdrawn by the parent, conceded by the LEA and decided by the tribunal. Of those decided it shows the number upheld and the number dismissed, where upheld refers to any decision where the tribunal found in favour of the parents on any part of their appeal.

Appeal outcomes by LEA for period 1 September 2003 to 31 August 2004

	Withdrawn	Conceded	Decided	Upheld	Dismissed
Barking and Dagenham	3	18	7	6	1
Barnet	28	8	16	15	1
Barnsley	3	2	7	4	3
Bath and North East Somerset	1	1	3	3	0
Bedfordshire	22	11	8	7	1
Bexley	19	1	3	2	1
Birmingham	68	15	51	40	11
Blackburn	2	0	4	3	1
Blackpool	4	0	1	1	0
Blaneau Gwent	1	0	0	0	0
Bolton	4	0	6	3	3
Bournemouth	1	0	1	1	0
Bracknell Forest	5	0	2	1	1
Bradford	7	6	8	5	3
Brent	9	0	11	3	8
Bridgend	2	0	1	0	1
Brighton and Hove	1	2	9	9	0
Bristol City	28	1	17	14	3
Bromley	25	4	48	43	5
Buckinghamshire	27	2	4	4	0
Bury	4	0	8	5	3
Caerphilly	0	0	3	3	0
Calderdale	4	5	12	7	5
Cambridgeshire	13	12	5	3	2
Camden	14	1	3	3	0
Cardiff	1	3	6	4	2
Carmarthenshire	0	0	2	2	0
Cheshire	14	5	11	10	1
Cornwall	20	2	17	13	4
Coventry	4	0	1	1	0
Croydon	18	24	17	11	6
Cumbria	17	1	6	5	1
Darlington	4	0	5	3	2
Derby City	4	0	4	3	1
Derbyshire	10	8	9	6	3
Devon	23	2	6	4	2
Doncaster	7	0	7	5	2
Dorset	4	0	3	3	0
Dudley	10	1	2	1	1
Durham	17	18	12	8	4
Ealing	10	2	10	9	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	1	0	5	5	0
East Sussex	27	6	40	34	6
Enfield	10	1	3	3	0
Essex	59	23	25	18	7
Flintshire	1	0	1	1	0
Gateshead	7	2	4	4	0
Gloucestershire	14	1	8	5	3
Greenwich	14	1	11	7	4
Gwynedd	0	0	1	1	0
Hackney	10	18	11	8	3
Halton	4	1	1	1	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	2	2	1	1
Hampshire	60	27	27	22	5
Haringey	7	5	14	10	4
Harrow	14	1	11	10	1
Hartlepool	1	0	0	0	0
Havering	2	0	0	0	0
Herefordshire	3	4	2	2	0
Hertfordshire	26	21	34	28	6
Hillingdon	4	2	9	8	1
Hounslow	4	1	4	4	0
Isle of Anglesey	1	0	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	5	1	4	3	1
Islington	6	6	3	3	0
Kensington and Chelsea	4	0	6	5	1
Kent	46	55	34	20	14
Kingston-upon-Thames	6	4	7	6	1
Kingston-upon-Hull, City	6	1	4	4	0
Kirklees	6	4	5	4	1
Knowsley	5	2	3	2	1

Appeal outcomes by LEA for period 1 September 2003 to 31 August 2004

	Withdrawn	Conceded	Decided	Upheld	Dismissed
Lambeth	16	15	27	22	5
Lancashire	55	18	7	4	3
Leeds	10	11	9	7	2
Leicester City	17	5	5	3	2
Leicestershire	14	8	20	14	6
Lewisham	16	6	28	24	4
Lincolnshire	21	15	23	18	5
Liverpool	14	4	11	7	4
Luton	3	4	5	5	0
Manchester	12	4	10	7	3
Medway	3	10	1	0	1
Merton	9	1	5	3	2
Middlesbrough	2	2	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	9	3	1	1	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	2	1	1
Neath Port Talbot	1	0	2	2	0
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1	0	5	4	1
Newham	14	1	11	7	4
Newport	4	0	6	4	2
Norfolk	26	5	19	17	2
North East Lincolnshire	10	10	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	6	6	3	3	0
North Somerset	7	1	5	3	2
North Tyneside	0	0	1	0	1
North Yorkshire	9	6	5	5	0
Northamptonshire	4	2	6	6	0
Northumberland	3	0	1	1	0
Nottingham City	4	4	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	1	13	4	4	0
Oldham	6	0	5	4	1
Oxfordshire	22	4	14	11	3
Peterborough	4	0	4	3	1
Plymouth	1	1	1	1	0
Poole	0	0	3	1	2
Portsmouth	3	1	4	3	1
Reading	3	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	10	5	9	7	2
Redcar and Cleveland	1	0	1	1	0
Richmond-upon-Thames	12	6	13	10	3
Rochdale	3	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	9	3	6	6	0
Salford	9	3	6	4	2
Sandwell	8	2	3	3	0
Sefton	2	3	6	5	1
Sheffield	3	5	4	2	2
Shropshire	6	8	4	2	2
Slough	2	4	3	3	0
Solihull	1	0	0	0	0
Somerset	7	5	19	14	5
South Gloucestershire	6	3	8	7	1
South Tyneside	3	1	1	1	0
Southampton	3	1	6	4	2
Southend	6	0	4	3	1
Southwark	17	3	8	8	0
St. Helens	2	0	1	1	0
Staffordshire	18	6	21	13	
Stockport	2	0	3	2	1
Stockton-on-Tees	0	2	1	0	1
Stoke-on-Trent	3	1	0	0	0
Suffolk	14	15	18	17	1
Sunderland	3	5	4	4	0
Surrey	49	23	29	26	3
Sutton	10	0	2	2	0
Swansea	1	0	1	0	1
Swindon	2	1	2	2	0
Tameside	8	1	1	0	1
Telford and Wrekin	4	5	2	2	0
Thurrock	4	1	3	3	0
Torbay	6	0	4	2	2
Torfaen	1	0	1	1	0
Tower Hamlets	2	0	1	1	0

Appeal outcomes by LEA for period 1 September 2003 to 31 August 2004

	Withdrawn	*Conceded*	*Decided*	*Upheld*	*Dismissed*
Trafford	3	0	3	2	1
Vale of Glamorgan	1	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	4	0	6	5	1
Walsall	17	1	21	19	2
Waltham Forest	10	3	3	3	0
Wandsworth	19	0	9	7	2
Warrington	5	1	0	0	0
Warwickshire	6	0	6	4	2
West Berkshire	0	1	0	0	0
West Sussex	29	11	12	8	4
Westminster	5	3	7	5	2
Wigan Wiltshire	1	8	5	3	2
Wiltshire	18	7	18	16	2
Windsor and Maidenhead	1	6	4	4	0
Wirral	8	1	5	4	1
Wokingham	1	0	1	1	0
Wolverhampton	1	0	2	1	1
Worcestershire	20	1	9	5	4
Wrexham	1	1	0	0	0
York City	1	1	1	0	1
Total	1,533	661	1,195	930	265

Sure Start

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what relationship extended schools will have with Sure Start children's centres. [6591]

Beverley Hughes: We want to see strong links between extended schools and children's centres. Children's centres provide holistic services, including access to integrated early learning and care, health and family support for children under five and their families. They are being established across the country in every community by 2010. We also expect all schools to be offering extended services by that date.

It is up to local authorities to determine where children's centres should be located in order to best serve their communities' needs. However, where possible we expect children's centres to be developed from existing services which will include nursery, primary and secondary schools. Children's centres may wish to consider co-locating with schools, especially primary schools and offering joint services, to provide a more streamlined service to parents and families, providing services for all those with children aged 0–11 in one place. This would particularly benefit those parents with pre-school children and children of primary school age.

Young Runaways

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how she plans to evaluate the pilot scheme for flexible community-based accommodation for young runaways. [7250]

Maria Eagle: The community based flexible refuges were funded on the basis that they would be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of their services within their communities. At the end of the pilot period, the DfES will consider how best to collate the lessons from these individual evaluations, in order to inform future policy and delivery of services for young runaways.

CABINET OFFICE

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the Government Departments which *(a)* have adopted, *(b)* are in the process of adopting and *(c)* have rejected the scheme for foregoing employee salary in favour of child care vouchers. [6607]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested is not held centrally. Individual Government departments are responsible for their own arrangements for child care support for their staff.

Government Car Despatch Agency

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* upper and *(b)* lower age limits are for drivers employed by the Government Car Despatch Agency. [5728]

Mr. Hutton: The responsibility for the provision of ministerial cars and drivers has been delegated under the terms of the Framework Document to the Government Car Despatch Agency. I have asked its Chief Executive Mr. Roy Burke to write to the hon. Member. Copies of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Mrs. Barbara Smith is a permanent employee of the Government Despatch Agency; to which Department she is assigned; for how long she has worked for the agency; when her contract started; for how long she has been a driver for Mr. David Blunkett; whether she is his official driver; and how many Government vehicles she is permitted to drive. [5729]

Mr. Hutton: The responsibility for the provision of ministerial cars and drivers has been delegated under the terms of the Framework Document to the Government Car Despatch Agency. I have asked its Chief Executive Mr. Roy Burke to write to the hon. Member. Copies of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Lord Birt

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what caused the ceiling in Lord Birt's office to collapse; and how much it is estimated the repair will cost. [7303]

Mr. Hutton: The cost of repairing the ceiling collapse, which was caused by a leak, and associated cleaning was £2,773.

Showground (Garstang)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Duchy has for a showground near Garstang in Lancashire. [6580]

Mr. Hutton: The Duchy of Lancaster office has been investigating the possibility of the former Myerscough Quarry becoming a strategic "rural Gateway" for Lancashire, acting as an interface between rural and urban interests and to diversify the local rural economy. Integral to this is the provision of a regional showground and events facility.

This is still in the early stages of consultation with local stakeholders.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

British Nuclear Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make it his policy to seek to realise capital receipts from the disposal of BNFL assets in *(a)* Westinghouse and *(b)* Urenco. [5889]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Government's and BNFL's position on Westinghouse (and other BNFL businesses) has not changed since the 2003 BNFL Joint Strategy Review. The businesses are being managed to deliver value and in a way that limits and controls risk to the UK taxpayer. As agreed in 2003, the Westinghouse business has been operating with greater financial independence from its parent, so that possibilities for private sector participation can be opened up.

Under the strategy of delivering shareholder value the BNFL board continues to discuss strategic options with its long-term adviser, N M Rothschild.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with British Nuclear Fuels about the court action being taken against Kernkraftwerk Brokdorf GmbH. [1685]

Malcolm Wicks: None.

Clean Coal Technology

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to support the development of clean coal technology in the UK. [6102]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK's Carbon Abatement Technologies strategy was launched on the 14 June. This sets out the work programme needed to support the development of sustainable fossil fuel technologies mainly using coal and natural gas. It recognises that fossil fuels will continue to be a major source of energy for decades to come and that technologies need to be developed and deployed which will radically reduce CO_2 emissions from the use of these fuels. Improved combustion efficiency and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) are seen as the key technologies for achieving this aim.

The Government have announced funding of some £25 million towards demonstration of carbon abatement technologies as part of a £40 million package of support for clean energy technologies. Also, in his Budget statement this year the Chancellor undertook to assess support for the development of CCS in the Climate Change Programme Review (CCPR), including the potential for economic incentives.

In addition to this we will continue to fund research and development in this area under the DTI's Technology Programme. Under the Cleaner Coal Technology R and D Programme from 1999 up to 2008, the Government will have committed some £13.5 million in supporting UK industry to develop cleaner coal technologies. In addition to this we are also committing some £3.5 million for UK industry and academia to collaborate with the USA to develop these technologies.

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [6949]

Alun Michael: Records of IT security incidents reported within the Department for the period in question show:

Theft

The number of reported thefts of computers is as follows:

	Number of thefts
2002–03	34
2003–04	35
2004–05	24
2005–06 (to date)	10

There have been no recorded incidents of computer fraud or of the Department's computer systems being illegally accessed by computer hackers within or outside the Department in the period in question.

Copyright (Sound Recording)

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the Government's policy regarding the extension of copyright term for sound recording. [3736]

Alan Johnson: Any extension of the term of protection for sound recordings would require a change to the EC directive which harmonises copyright terms across the EU and there are currently no proposals for such an amendment to this directive. Those who have rights

in sound recordings have, nevertheless, made representations to us for an increased term of protection and, in considering whether or not to support this, we will be assessing the impact on all stakeholders.

Credit Card Debt

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he plans to take to tackle the growth in consumer credit card debt. [6961]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The UK credit market remains one of the most competitive in the world. Although figures show that borrowing is increasing in real terms, DTI commissioned research indicates that the vast majority of consumers manage their credit successfully, using it as an enabler, and do not become over-indebted.

The Government is not, however, complacent and a number of departments are working together to ensure that those needing help have access to it. Further details can be found in the "Tackling Over-indebtedness: Action Plan 2004" published July 2004 which is in the Libraries of the House and in the forthcoming 2005 update to be published shortly.

Environmental Guidance (Companies)

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what guidance he has given to UK companies on their responsibilities *(a)* to report on and *(b)* to mitigate their impact on (i) communities and (ii) the environment. [6608]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI has introduced an Operating and Financial Review which, with effect from financial years beginning on or after 1 April 2005, will require directors of quoted companies to report on the development and performance of their business during the year, and on the key factors likely to affect development and performance in future. In preparing their OFR, directors will need to consider factors such as environment and community issues, insofar as these are relevant for an understanding of the business. The Accounting Standards Board has issued a reporting standard and implementation guidance to help companies prepare their OFR.

We also encourage companies to address the social and environmental impacts of their activities over and above compliance with minimum legal standards. The Government website on CSR—www.csr.gov.uk—outlines our approach to promoting responsible business practice.

EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the European Commission regarding EU-ACP economic partnership agreements since March. [6751]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I discussed economic partnership agreement negotiations with Peter Mandelson, the EU Trade Commissioner. My officials have discussed the negotiations bilaterally with the Commission and in council working groups.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the European Commission regarding reform of Article 24 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in relation to trade agreements, with particular reference to the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements. [6756]

Ian Pearson: Officials have discussed suggestions for reforming Article 24 of the GATT with the European Commission. Following consultation with member states, the EU recently tabled a draft submission in the WTO on reform of the article, including proposals for special and differential treatment for developing countries such as the ACP.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the European Commission on the letter from Mr. Peter Carl, of the European Commission, to Heads of Delegations of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries of 11 April 2005, on the UK Government's position on EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements. [6757]

Ian Pearson: Ministers and officials are in regular contact with the European Commission on a broad range of issues associated with the Economic Partnership Agreements being negotiated with the ACP countries, including the issues raised in the UK position paper.

European Gas and Electricity Markets

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the timetable is for the EU sectoral enquiry into European gas and electricity markets. [7558]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission launched the sectoral inquiry on 13 June 2005 and announced that it will publish an interim report by end 2005 and the main results in 2006.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he expects the UK to be included in the EU sectoral inquiry into gas and electricity markets. [7573]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission has announced that the sectoral inquiry will cover the whole of the EU. We therefore expect the UK to be included.

Eurotunnel

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Eurotunnel (i) staff and (ii) creditors and *(b)* other Government Departments on Eurotunnel in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [6014]

Alun Michael: None. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport leads on policy pertaining to Eurotunnel.

Flexible Working

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to promote working with flexibility for those with caring and family responsibilities. [5981]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In February this year the DTI launched a consultation to take forward the work and family commitments that were announced in last December's pre-Budget report and the 10-year child care strategy. In the consultation we asked for views on the case for extending the right to request flexible working to carers of sick and disabled adults and to parents of older children. The consultation closed on 25 May 2005 and we are analysing the responses. These will be published, alongside the Government response, on our website at www.dti.gov.uk/workandfamilies.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5112]

Alan Johnson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

Interest Charges

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will introduce measures to limit interest rates charged to the poorest borrowers. [6960]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following research commissioned by the DTI, a decision has been taken not to introduce an interest rate ceiling in the UK.

However, we have committed to keeping this issue under review.

Maguire *v.* Harland and Wolff

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the recent appeal court ruling in the case of Maguire *v.* Harland and Wolff that no compensation is owed to a former shipyard worker whose wife died of cancer contracted by secondary exposure to asbestos dust; and if he will make a statement. [1716]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

In reaching its decision in this case, the Court of Appeal applied the principles of the current law of negligence to the particular circumstances of the case. The Government have no plans to change the law in this area.

Minimum Wage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to introduce tougher penalties to deter companies from paying their employees below the minimum wage. [6632]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In their 2005 report the Low Pay Commission confirmed that the vast majority of employers support and comply with the minimum wage. However, we recognise that a small minority of employers are not paying their workers the minimum wage. We are presently considering a number of options for improving enforcement and we intend to make a statement on this shortly.

National Grid Charges (Highlands and Islands)

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will use his powers to cap charges for access to the national grid for generators in the Highlands and Islands. [7278]

Malcolm Wicks: On 8 March 2005, my predecessor the hon. Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien) announced that we would exercise the power conferred in Section 185 of the Energy Act 2004 to adjust electricity transmission charges for renewable generators on the Scottish Islands of Orkney, the Shetlands and the Western Isles. He also announced that we would consult on whether charges should be adjusted on the mainland of northern Scotland. We will launch a public consultation on this issue later in the summer.

Newspaper and Magazine Supply

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the Office of Fair Trading's provisional view on exclusive wholesale territories for supplies of newspapers and magazines; and what steps the Department is taking to ensure that supplies to small retailers are protected. [6917]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following a request from certain newspaper and magazine publishers, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has considered whether arrangements for distribution of newspapers and magazines are likely to be compatible with competition law after 1st May 2005. In the course of considering this matter, I know OFT received representations from all parts of the newspaper and magazine supply chain, including particular concerns about the distribution of magazines.

OFT announced a provisional opinion on 23rd February and, on 19th May, published details in a draft advisory opinion. OFT has invited written comments on its draft advisory opinion to be received by 17th June. I understand a number of submissions have been made and from letters I have received on the subject I expect these to have included concerns about what the OFT opinion might mean for the future of distribution arrangements for both magazines and newspapers and how this might affect different parts of the newspaper and magazine supply chain. OFT will want to consider these new submissions carefully before reaching final conclusions.

OFT is the independent competition regulator and the relevant competent authority to consider the substantive issues involved. Ministers are not in a position to second-guess OFT's substantive conclusions or interpretation of the law. There are no recommendations for Ministers to implement. It is for the companies concerned to make decisions about what distribution arrangements they put in place for their products while ensuring those arrangements comply with the law.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) whether he plans to implement the Office of Fair Trading's recommendation to end wholesaler territories for newspaper and magazine distribution; and if he will make a statement; . [7084]

(2) what assessment he has made of the number of smaller news and magazine retailers that would close if the current system of exclusive wholesaler territories is ended; and if he will make a statement. [7085]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following a request from certain newspaper and magazine publishers, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has considered whether arrangements for distribution of newspapers and magazines are likely to be compatible with competition law after 1 May 2005. In the course of considering this matter, I know OFT received representations from all parts of the newspaper and magazine supply chain, including particular concerns about the distribution of magazines.

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Nuclear Leak (Thorp)

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to produce its report on the leak at the THORP Plant; and whether he intends to publish the findings. [6668]

Malcolm Wicks: I am informed by the Health and Safety Executive that completion of its Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's investigation into the leak at THORP is likely to take some weeks and that its findings will be published in due course.

Office Space (Easington)

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what square footage of office space is vacant at *(a)* the Spectrum Enterprise Zone site at Dawdon and *(b)* the Whitehouse Business Park at Shotton; what steps are being taken to market these sites; and what progress has been made so far. [6708]

Alun Michael: I understand that currently Whitehouse Business Park has 381,000 sq. ft. of vacant space, and that Spectrum (Dawdon Enterprise Zone) has 246,700 sq. ft. The space let so far at Whitehouse is 234,000 sq. ft., and at Dawdon 60,000 sq. ft.

Both sites are owned by the Regional Development Agency, ONE NorthEast, which is working closely with County Durham Development Company and East Durham Business Service to maintain the profile of the East Durham Enterprise Zones. There are three developers with interest in securing occupiers for the two sites. All three developers have retained regional property agents to market the site regionally, nationally and internationally.

Post Offices

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the protection and continuation of rural post offices in Midlothian. [6627]

Barry Gardiner: Ministers and officials regularly meet Post Office Ltd to discuss a wide range of issues relating to the network.

The Government have placed on Post Office Ltd a formal obligation to maintain the rural post office network and to prevent avoidable closures of rural post offices. The direction remains in force at least until April 2006. Post Office Ltd is currently piloting modern and innovative ways of delivering postal services in rural areas and the feedback from those pilots will allow Government to make better informed decisions on the longer-term future of the rural network.

The Government initially made available £450million (£150 million a year) for the three years 2003–04 to 2005–06 to help the Post Office to maintain the parts or the rural post office network that could not be sustained on a commercial basis. Subject to state aid clearance the Government have made available a further £300 million to extend its financial support for the rural network until April 2008.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices were in operation in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Ceredigion in each of the last 10 years. [7264]

Barry Gardiner: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. and the chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3546]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is about to undertake an independent review of its Race Relations scheme to improve compliance and raise awareness within DTI, and this will extend to those bodies and organisations that fall within its remit.

Raw Tobacco Market

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the Court of Auditors audit on the raw tobacco market, C41 OJ 17 Feb 05. [497]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has long fought for the withdrawal of subsidy for the growing of tobacco and the lack of controls highlighted by the report of the Court of Auditors serves to reinforce this view. We are concerned at the failures by member states to apply the required controls and unsatisfactory monitoring by the Commission. While the reform of the tobacco regime agreed at the Luxembourg Council in April 2004 will result in full decoupling of the tobacco subsidy by 2010 we expect every effort to be made to ensure that the controls required by existing legislation are followed and, if necessary, corrective action taken. We will continue to take every opportunity to press the Commission for updates on the progress it is making to ensure member states are applying the required controls and on how it is addressing the issue of financial corrections.

Renewable Energy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are being taken to encourage the use of renewable energy in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency. [5911]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's primary support mechanism for renewable energy in the UK is the Renewables Obligation (RO). The RO requires electricity suppliers to obtain an annually increasing percentage of their electricity from renewable source. This is supported by over £500 million in spending on developing emerging renewables and low carbon technologies up to 2008.

Renew Tees Valley is responsible for planning and delivery of renewable energy projects in the Tees Valley including Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland and is tasked with creating jobs and encouraging inward investment using the medium of renewables and recycling.

Renew Tees Valley is part of the wider NE regional activity working in partnership with Government Office for the North East, ONE, and the North East Assembly under the auspices of the North East Energy Partnership (NEEP), which takes the lead role in the North East for promoting renewables and for encouraging energy efficiency activities.

PRIME MINISTER

Bermuda

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit Bermuda. [7144]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Honours

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the Government's response in Reform of the Honours System (Cm 6479) to Recommendation 10 of the Report by the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee (HC 212–1). [5565]

The Prime Minister: The Government's response to Recommendation 10 of the Report was put into effect in time for the recent Birthday Honours List.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister how many of the Chairs of Specialist Committees he approved on 14 June as members of the Independent Honours Committee are *(a)* black and *(b)* Asian. [6448]

The Prime Minister: None. The process of selecting members of the Committees from those who applied is now under way. In making these appointments, the Cabinet Secretary will be taking into account the objective of creating a diverse membership.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister what his policy is on scrutiny of propriety of awards of political honours in cases where a recipient has made a donation to a political party. [6066]

The Prime Minister: The fact of having made a political donation should not in itself exclude the award of an honour where the candidate's service or achievements justify one. The House of Lords Appointments Commission is given information, where relevant, about political donations made by candidates whom it considers. As for candidates assessed by the normal process, those for the most senior awards who have made recent political donations are drawn to the attention of the main honours assessment committee.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the minuted opinion of the Main Committee on honours that the Science and Technology Committee was unlikely to recommend Professor Colin Blakemore for an honour for his scientific work in view of his work on vivisection. [6065]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on allegedly leaked documents.

House of Lords

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether it will be the responsibility of the House of Lords Appointments Commission to vet all nominations for honours, including those nominated by *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* political parties, to ensure the highest standards of propriety; [5624]

(2) who, following the abolition of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee, in the case of candidates put forward personally by the Prime Minister for honours, will review independently the tax status, business connections and other personal interests of those candidates, their families and friends in order to ensure the highest standard of propriety; and from what date their vetting work will begin. [5626]

The Prime Minister: The House of Lords Appointments Commission have agreed to my request that the Prime Minister of the day should refer to them any candidates for honours for political and public services put forward by leaders of political parties, and the names of Members of Parliament who are candidates for honours for services to Parliament. They have agreed to perform a similar service in respect of any candidates whose names are proposed by the Prime

Minister of the day for an Honours List at a late stage, and who have not therefore been subject to the normal assessment and selection process.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister what powers the House of Lords Appointments Commission has to vet appointments by the Prime Minister other than peerages. [6063]

The Prime Minister: None, other than those nominations for honours as described in the answer I gave to the hon. Gentleman today (5624 and 5626).

Chris Grayling: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy that the role of the House of Lords Appointments Commission is extended to consider whether the appointments of Ministers in the House of Lords by him conform to the highest standards of propriety. [6064]

The Prime Minister: No.

Nuisance Automated Phone Calls

John Hemming: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 259, what steps the Government are taking to prevent nuisance automated phone calls. [7224]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the letter I sent him today. Copies of the letter have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Prime Minister (Appointment)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 16 June ref 3343, what time scale he would expect to be followed for the appointment of the Prime Minister. [7388]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 577W.

HOME OFFICE

Micro-bikes

19. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to *(a)* the police and *(b)* local authorities to deal with the illegal riding of micro-bikes. [6871]

Mr. Andy Burnham: The police have a power under the Police Reform Act to seize any mechanically propelled vehicle which is being driven both in a careless and inconsiderate manner on-road, or off-road without lawful authority, and causing or likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. If a micro-bike is ridden on the pavement, the police can deal with this as an offence under the Highways Act 1835. Where the rider is a child the police may choose instead to warn him and advise his parents as necessary.

Local authorities can make byelaws prohibiting the use of micro-bikes in particular areas and also have the power to seize vehicles causing a noise nuisance.

Antisocial Behaviour

20. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the length of time it takes to resolve cases of serious antisocial behaviour. [6872]

Fiona MacTaggart: The Government are committed to ensuring local agencies have the powers they need to reduce the impact of antisocial behaviour. Breach of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) is a criminal offence and criminal penalties apply.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and the TOGETHER campaign provide practitioners with tools and know-how to ensure that antisocial behaviour is dealt with swiftly and effectively.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been breached in each year since their introduction, broken down by *(a)* the reason for the breach and *(b)* the punishment given for the breach. [1393]

Mr. Charles Clarke: During the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003 a total of 1,892 antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) were issued within England and Wales. Of those issued 793 individuals breached their ASBO over this period.

The table counts all breach occasions during this period. The total given for this is 2,053 and represents breaches by those 793 individuals, indicating that those individuals breached more than once.

Number[1] of occasions an ASBO was breached by year[2] and type of sentence

	Type of sentence					
Year of breach	*Discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Custody[3]*	*Other*	*Total*
2000[2]	0	7	2	8	2	19
2001	7	39	56	100	32	234
2002	26	52	144	230	60	512
2003	60	135	356	626	111	1,288
Total	93	233	558	964	205	2,053

[1] Includes multiple breaches of the same ASBO and covers those ASBOs reported to the Home Office.

[2] From 1 June 2000. Data for 2004 are not yet available.

[3] This excludes 10 cases where a fully suspended sentence was given and 29 cases where a sentence of one day in police cells was given. These cases are included in the "Other" column.

Shatterproof Glasses/Bottles

21. **Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the drinks industry regarding the adoption of shatterproof glasses and bottles in bars, pubs and clubs. [6873]

Mr. Charles Clarke: We remain concerned about the use of glasses and bottles as weapons in and around licensed premises.

The Violent Crime Reduction Bill provides a new fast track alcohol licence review process which will allow Licensing Authorities to require pubs and clubs, where necessary, to use toughened drinks glasses and bottles. We will continue to discuss this measure with the drinks industry and other stakeholders.

Kirkham Prison

22. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the Prison Service's response to the Chief Inspector of Prisons' report on Kirkham Prison. [6874]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Prison Service will produce an action plan which sets out what action will be taken on each one of the Chief Inspector's recommendations. I expect the action plan to be ready in August, as set out in the protocol agreed with the Chief Inspector.

Police

24. **Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on police numbers in Barnet. [6876]

Hazel Blears: Decisions on the allocation of resources to the London Borough Operational Command Units (OCU) is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis. I understand from the Commissioner that the Barnet OCU had 554 police officers on 31 March 2005. This is 69, or 14 per cent. more than in March 2001. Barnet additionally had 44 community support officers at the end of March this year.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to establish fast track access to medical services for police personnel to reduce sickness absence in police forces. [6875]

Hazel Blears: The Strategy for a Healthy Police Service, made £19 million available to forces in England and Wales for occupational health service from 2002 to 2006. It is for forces to determine how best to develop their occupational health services to support operational policing. In doing this forces can take account of the evaluation of projects funded by the Strategy. Some forces have used this funding to operate fast track access schemes.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans he has to require police forces to adopt as standard the police staff council handbook; [523]

(2) how many police forces have fully adopted the pay and conditions set out in the police staff council handbook; [524]

(3) what representations he has received from the Association of Chief Police Officers regarding mandatory adoption of the police staff council handbook. [525]

Mr. Charles Clarke: In the White Paper: Building Communities, Beating Crime, we commit to developing terms and conditions for police staff that meet the operational requirements of the service and support the delivery of improved performance. We wish to develop terms and conditions of service for police staff which reflect their increasingly important place in policing and the operational nature of many of their roles. We will discuss these proposals in the PSC. However, we want to allow police forces and authorities flexibility where that is necessary to meet local requirements. We do not propose therefore to make the contents of the PSC handbook mandatory.

Adoption of the terms and conditions of the Police Staff Council (PSC) of England and Wales Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook is by voluntary agreement by individual forces. Forces can take account of the handbook in deciding on the terms and conditions for their staff in the light of force requirements and circumstances. Neither the Home Office nor the Employers Organisation collect information about which of the provisions of the Handbook individual forces have chosen to incorporate in local terms and conditions of service.

Neither myself or other Ministers have received any representation from the Association of Chief Police Officers in regards to the mandatory adoption of the Police Staff Council handbook.

Anti-terrorism (Detainees)

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been detained under anti-terrorism legislation in each year since 1975; how many were *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK citizens; how many of those detained were subsequently charged with (i) terrorist and (ii) other criminal offences; and how many were deported. [152]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Under current terrorism legislation apart from very specific powers only available at ports or to facilitate stop and search, there are no powers of detention without arrest.

Statistics on arrests under Prevention of Terrorism Legislation from 1979 to 2001 are available on the Research and Statistics section of the Home Office website.

Statistics on arrests, since 11 September 2001, under the Terrorism Act 2000 are also available. These can be found in the terrorism section of the Home Office website.

CCTV

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much public funding has been spent on CCTV security cameras in *(a)* Haltemprice and Howden and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [3594]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Since 1999, the Home Office has allocated £381,558 to the East Riding of Yorkshire (which includes the constituency of Haltemprice and Howden) to ensure CCTV coverage across the area as part of the closed circuit television initiative, which was an element of the crime reduction programme. The breakdown of this funding is as follows:

	£
1999–2000	44,686
2001–02	155,325
2002–03	181,547

Since the completion of the crime reduction programme, crime reduction funding has been allocated directly to the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership through the Building Safer Communities fund and to Basic Command Unit (BCD) commanders through the BCD fund. These funding streams finance a variety of interventions, including CCTV, to tackle local crime priorities.

Allocation of this funding locally is a matter for the East Riding of Yorkshire council and Humberside constabulary. The information is not held centrally.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he will reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to *(a)* Martin Rathfelder, dated 31 March, *(b)* Mr. N. Hussain, dated 23 March and *(c)* Timothy Feist, dated 22 March; [188]

(2) when he will answer the letter dated 23 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. N. Hussain. [2631]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The information is as follows:

(*a*) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 24 May 2005.

(*b*) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 1 April 2005.

(*c*) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 12 April 2005.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to *(a)* Mr. A. Bokes, dated 8 March, *(b)* Scholastic Dube, dated 23 March, *(c)* Mr. M. M. Berrish, dated 23 March and *(d)* Mr. R. M. Farooqi, dated 3 March. [193]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The information is as follows:

(a) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 18 May 2005.

(b) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 18 May 2005.

(c) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 24 May 2005.

(d) I replied to my right hon. Friend on 18 May 2005.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter to him dated 22 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Timothy Feist. [2122]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 12 April 2005.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter to him dated 4 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Hassan Nadir Rashid. [2128]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 May 2005.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter to him dated 7 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Jamal Mohammed Bin Omar Al Ridal. [2129]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 1 March 2005.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 11 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Mukhdoom Ali. [6173]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 June.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter dated 23 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. N. Hussain. [7932]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 1 April.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to answer the letter dated 9 May, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Zahoor Ahmed. [4493]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 23 June 2005.

Defendants (Greater London)

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* the immigration status and *(b)* the nationality of convicted defendants in magistrates courts in the Greater London area is recorded. [2834]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

Information on *(a)* the immigration status and *(b)* the nationality of convicted defendants in magistrates courts in the Greater London area is not currently recorded.

Identity Cards

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the merits of including radio frequency identification chips in *(a)* passports and *(b)* identity cards. [4142]

Mr. McNulty: The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) initiated feasibility studies evaluating the acceptability and implementation options for biometrics and the storage of electronic data on passports including the use of radio frequency identification chips (RFID). These are available on the ICAO website.

The United Kingdom Passport Service (UKPS) has played a significant role in the development of the options and subsequent standards. The UKPS has adopted these standards within the technical design of the biometric passport.

No final decisions have been taken yet on the chip technology for ID cards.

Immigration Service Work

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to complete discussions with HM Revenue and Customs on the future arrangements for immigration service work in Berwick-upon-Tweed previously carried out on an agency basis by HM Customs and Excise officer based in the town; and what interim arrangements have been made to cover this work. [3804]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Immigration Service have recently been informed that HM Revenue and Customs propose to close the Customs House at Berwick-upon-Tweed. The immigration office at North Shields will continue to provide immigration coverage.

Kamel Bourgass

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which day staff from Porton Down alerted *(a)* the police and *(b)* Ministers about the error that had been made in statements issued that ricin had been found in the flat occupied by Kamel Bourgass; and what action was taken by (i) the police and (ii) Ministers when it was found that an error had been made. [1304]

Mr. Charles Clarke *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* An initial test conducted by Dstl Porton Down on 6 January 2003 on an exhibit taken by police from the flat occupied by Kamal Bourgass gave an apparent positive result for ricin. However, confirmatory tests which were conducted throughout the period from 7 January 2003 to 28 January 2003 failed to detect the presence of ricin.

Ricin was identified and confirmed on 7 January, 2003 in a second exhibit, consisting of 22 castor beans seized from the flat. Nicotine poison was also identified and confirmed. Other materials, specifically mentioned in the poison recipes recovered from the flat were also found including acetone and isopropyl alcohol.

The Prosecuting Counsel (Mr. Sweeney QC), Crown Prosecution Service, was verbally informed of the ricin test result at a case conference on 20 March, 2003 by Dstl. The Metropolitan Police Anti-Terrorist Branch was also represented at the meeting where the information was provided. The result was also provided in a written statement which was made available to the Crown Prosecution Service and the metropolitan police at that time.

Further tests on the first exhibit on 27/28 April, 2003 also did not detect ricin.

We do not have a record of the date this information was passed from the police to the Home Office and subsequently to Ministers.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date *(a)* the police first reported the discovery of traces of ricin in the London flat used by Kamel Bourgass and his associates and *(b)* Porton Down chemical and biological weapons research centre first indicated that there was no ricin in the flat; and if he will make a statement. [1852]

Mr. Charles Clarke: An initial test conducted by Dstl Porton Down on 6 January 2003 on an exhibit taken by police from the flat occupied by Kamal Bourgass gave an apparent positive result for ricin. However, confirmatory tests which were conducted throughout the period from 7 January 2003 to 28 January 2003 failed to detect the presence of ricin.

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Further tests on the first exhibit on 27–28 April, 2003 also did not detect rich.

Press Officers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press officers his Department has employed in each year since 1997, broken down by pay grade. [1394]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Press officers within the Home Office are employed at the information officer (IO) and senior information officer (SIO) grades.

A breakdown of staff by pay grade prior to 1999–2000 is unavailable as this information is not held on record. The information provided in the table covers full financial years from 1999–2000 to 2004–05.

The Home Office Press Office and the Prison Service Press Office merged in May 2001.

In 2003–04 the Press Office Newsdesk answered 60,039 calls; Press Office issued 583 press notices and held 29 briefings for the media.

	Total	*IO*	*SIO*
1997–98	13	n/a	n/a
1998–99	13	n/a	n/a
1999–2000	16	12	4
2000–01	31	24	7
2001–02	35	27	8
2002–03	39	29	10
2003–04	39	27	12
2004–05	43	34	9

Project IRIS

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on progress in implementing Project IRIS. [4682]

Mr. McNulty: The Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS) operational pilot has been implemented at Heathrow Airport Terminals 2 and 4 and commenced passenger enrolments from 20 June 2005. After the pilot has been fully evaluated the system will roll-out to eight other airport terminals during 2005.

SitCen

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the role in the EU of SitCen. [503]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The EU Joint Situation Centre (SitCen) monitors and assesses events and situations worldwide on a 24-hour basis with a focus on potential crisis regions, terrorism and WMD-proliferation. The SitCen also provides support to the EU High Representative, Special Representatives and other senior officials, as well as for EU crisis management operations.

The SitCen is divided into three units: the Civilian intelligence Cell (CIC), comprising civilian intelligence analysts working on political and counter-terrorism assessment; the General Operations Unit (GOU), providing 24-hour operational support, research and non-intelligence analysis; and the Communications Unit, handling communications security issues and running the council's communications centre (ComCen).

This creation of a CT analytical capacity within the CIC, which became active on 1 February 2005, has been the major aspect of SitCen's development since the attacks of 11 March in Madrid. As set out in The Hague multi-annual work programme, the intention is that SitCen furnishes the council with strategic intelligence-based assessments on counter-terrorism matters. An initial six month work programme has been set up to reflect the priorities of Heads of State as set out in the ED Action Plan on terrorism. This cross-pillar work programme incorporates justice and home affairs priorities, as well as those issues highlighted by external policy working groups. As such, it includes for example, assessments on threats to modes of transport; threats to critical national infrastructure targets in EU member states; and an assessment of trends in terrorist financing.

SitCen's priorities had hitherto largely focused on Common Foreign and Security Policy issues and did not serve to provide the necessary JHA input. With the CT Cell's work programme now reflecting broader EU CT priorities it is intended to add support to current policy areas. This is the principal area where the SitCen CT Cell can contribute to JHA work: strategic intelligence-based assessments on counter-terrorism matters in support of current policy discussions.

Terrorism

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* successfully prosecuted for terrorist activities in London in each year since 1997; and to which organisations those successfully prosecuted belonged; and what their country of origin was. [2528]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Statistics on the operation of Prevention of Terrorism Legislation from 1997 to 2001 are available on the Research and Statistics section of the Home Office website.

Statistics on arrests and prosecutions, since 11 September 2001, under the Terrorism Act 2000 are also available. These can be found in the terrorism section of the Home Office website.

These statistics reflect the operation of specific terrorism legislation. It is important to remember that it is, and will continue to be the case, that terrorist suspects are dealt with by the most appropriate legal means. This could be the legislation for murder, grievous bodily harm or the use of firearms or explosives which are all outside the scope of the Terrorism Act.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates in the last 12 months he has held meetings with the Mayor of London to discuss contingency measures in the event of a terrorist attack on London. [2435]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The development of contingency plans for London are managed through London Resilience based in the Government office for London. The London Resilience Forum, which meets quarterly, oversees this work and is chaired by my hon. Friend the Minister with responsibility for London Resilience, with the Mayor of London as the deputy chair. The Minister for London Resilience in turn sits on the Cabinet Committee overseeing resilience work nationally. This is chaired by the Home Secretary.

Outside this structure Home Office officials work closely with the London Resilience forum and a range of other Departments and agencies to develop the contingency plans for London.

Visas

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that visa inquiries from High Commission and Embassy entry clearance officers to the Evidence and Enquiries Unit of the Home Office are processed within 14 days. [4704]

Mr. McNulty: The service level agreement between UKvisas and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (Evidence and Enquiry Unit) sets a process time of 25 days from receipt of inquiries from posts abroad, to the despatch of responses. That performance target time is currently being met in 96 per cent. of cases.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits (Childless Couples)

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits may be paid to couples without children. [3787]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department do not provide any benefits expressly aimed at couples without children. A couple without children, who meet the qualifying conditions, would be entitled to the full range of social security benefits, either as a couple or as individuals.

British United Shoe Machinery

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will instigate an inquiry into the collapse of the British United Shoe Machinery Limited's pension scheme. [5151]

Mr. Timms: No.

The Pensions Ombudsman is an independent statutory commissioner and can investigate complaints of injustice resulting from maladministration and disputes of fact or law by the trustees or managers of a scheme, or by an employer on a pensions matter.

The body responsible for the regulation of work-based pension schemes is the Pensions Regulator which replaced the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra) from 6 April 2005. The law requires that those involved in running occupational and personal pension schemes, including stakeholder schemes, should consider reporting to the regulator breaches of any legislation or rule of law concerning the administration of the scheme.

Council Tax Benefit

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of council tax benefit that was unclaimed by pensioners in the latest year for which figures are available. [7420]

Mr. Plaskitt: The latest available information is in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take Up in 2002/2003", a copy of which is in the Library.

Council Tax Payments

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects pensioner households will receive the £200 payment towards council tax bills. [5947]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is intended that pensioner households will receive the £200 payment with their winter fuel payment at the end of the year.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for disability living allowance were *(a)* made and *(b)* rejected in each year since 2001, broken down by nation and region. [7014]

Mrs. McGuire: The requested information is not available by nation and region. The information that is available is in the table.

Disability living allowance claims received and refused in Great Britain from 2001–05

	Number of claims:	
	Received	*Refused*
2001	411,990	196,885
2002	427,965	194,605
2003	438,710	215,135
2004	439,095	234,180
2005[1]	176,460	91,365

[1] Figures are for calendar years (January to December) except 2005 which covers January 2005 to May 2005.

Notes:

1. Data are taken from the Management Information System (MIS) computer system.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

IAD Information Centre, 100 per cent. data

Financial Assistance Scheme

John Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of including members of the APW (Eastleigh) pension scheme in the Financial Assistance Scheme; [1698]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of including in the Financial Assistance Scheme all schemes which were wound up between May 2004 and April 2005 whose parent companies are still solvent; [1699]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of members of pension schemes which were wound up between May 2004 and April 2005 and whose parent companies are still solvent; [1700]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of members of pension schemes which were wound up between May 2004 and April 2005. [1841]

Mr. Timms: None—information is not available on which to base such estimates reliably.

The data collection exercise undertaken to facilitate the development of the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS), which ended in December 2004, identified 26 schemes (with some 7,000 members) which started to wind up between 14 May 2004 and 1 December 2004. Of those schemes, six (with some 1,400 members) appear to be sponsored by employers that had not undergone an insolvency event at that time. However, given the information provided before and during the exercise on the likely scope of the FAS, it is probable that some schemes connected to solvent employers did not provide returns.

Home Responsibilities Protection

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the reform of home responsibilities protection. [5646]

Mr. Timms: Home Responsibilities Protection which was introduced in 1978 ensures that carers, particularly women caring for children, can build up entitlement to a full basic state pension. The Government launched its national debate on 24 February with the publication of "Principles for Reform: The national pensions debate". This set out our guiding principles on which further work would be taken forward. Producing fair outcomes for women and carers is one of these principles.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of housing benefit paid to *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* disabled people, *(c)* lone parents, *(d)* unemployed people and *(e)* others, in each of the last eight years, in (i) cash and (ii) real terms. [3574]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the tables.

Annual housing benefit expenditure by client group—nominal and real terms

£ million, nominal

	1997–98 outturn	*1998–99 outturn*	*1999–2000 outturn*	*2000–01 outturn*
Housing benefit and discretionary housing payments	11,176	11,065	11,066	11,166
of which:				
People aged 60 and over	3,781	3,843	3,931	4,110
Long-term sick and disabled	1,782	1,966	2,132	2,286
Lone parents	2,614	2,654	2,731	2,648
Short-term sick	406	335	330	342
Others excluding unemployed people	875	851	688	652
Unemployed	1,719	1,417	1,255	1,129

£ million, nominal

	2001–02 outturn	*2002–03 outturn*	*2003–04 outturn*	*2004–05 estimated outturn*
Housing benefit and discretionary housing payments	11,590	12,638	12,365	13,052
of which:				
People aged 60 and over	4,380	4,730	4,457	4,868
Long-term sick and disabled	2,493	2,945	2,949	3,152
Lone parents	2,666	2,855	2,932	3,048
Short-term sick	338	365	350	329
Others excluding unemployed people	674	668	690	723
Unemployed	1,039	1,075	979	932

£ million, 2005–06 prices

	1997–98 outturn	*1998–99 outturn*	*1999–2000 outturn*	*2000–01 outturn*
Housing benefit and discretionary housing payments	13,547	13,037	12,760	12,727
of which:				
People aged 60 and over	4,583	4,528	4,532	4,685
Long-term sick and disabled	2,160	2,316	2,458	2,605
Lone parents	3,168	3,127	3,149	3,018
Short-term sick	492	395	380	390
Others excluding unemployed people	1,061	1,003	793	743
Unemployed	2,083	1,669	1,447	1,286

£ million, 2005–06 prices

	2001–02 outturn	*2002–03 outturn*	*2003–04 outturn*	*2004–05 estimated outturn*
Housing benefit and discretionary housing payments	12,883	13,582	12,916	13,379
of which:				
People aged 60 and over	4,868	5,084	4,659	4,990
Long-term sick and disabled	2,771	3,165	3,082	3,231
Lone parents	2,963	3,068	3,064	3,124
Short-term sick	375	392	366	338
Others excluding unemployed people	750	718	722	741
Unemployed	1,155	1,155	1,023	955

Notes:

1. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures are on a Resource Accounting and Budgeting basis.
3. Some figures for past years may have changed since previous publications owing to the incorporation of more up-to-date information.
4. Expenditure for 2004–05 reflects the latest benefit-by-benefit estimate of outturn, and not the amounts voted by Parliament.
5. Total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding. Includes benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, spending on rent rebates financed within local authorities' Housing Revenue Accounts, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds.
6. From 2004–05 the figures shown take into account the transfer of responsibility of The Rent Service to DWP.
7. Real terms have been calculated using gross domestic product deflators updated after the Budget Report of 16 March 2005.

Source:

DWP Income-related benefit expenditure tables, table 7.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of tenants receiving housing benefit in *(a)* the deregulated private sector, *(b)* the regulated private sector and *(c)* registered social landlord accommodation are (i) pensioners, (ii) disabled, (iii) lone parents, (iv) unemployed and (v) others. [3577]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the table.

Proportion of housing benefit recipients in each client group with deregulated, regulated and registered social landlord (RSL) tenancies, Great Britain—May 2003

Percentage

		Aged under 60			
	Aged 60 or over	*Disabled*	*Lone parents*	*Unemployed*	*Others*
Deregulated	18.8	26.0	27.1	12.6	15.4
Regulated	81.6	9.9	2.7	2.2	3.6
RSL	42.1	23.1	21.6	5.2	8.1

Notes:
1. Figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place and may not sum due to rounding.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
5. "Aged 60 or over" are cases where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 or over.
6. "Disabled" are cases where the claimant and partner are aged under 60 and in receipt of a disability premium.
7. "Lone parents" are single claimants aged under 60, with a dependent, and not in receipt of a disability premium.
8. "Unemployed" are cases where the claimant and partner are aged under 60, and one is in receipt of income based or contribution based jobseeker's allowance, not on a Government training scheme and not in receipt of a disability premium.
9. "Others" are cases not falling into any of the categories shown.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2003.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints in respect of housing benefit were reported to the Local Government Ombudsman in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [5453]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of complaints in respect of housing benefit received each year by each of the three Local Government Ombudsmen is given as follows:

Number of cases received each year	*Ombudsman in London (currently, broadly covering north London, Essex, Kent, Suffolk, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire)*[1]	*Ombudsman in Coventry (currently, broadly covering south London, most southern and central England, and the south west)*[1]	*Ombudsman in York (currently, broadly covering the north of England, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire)*[1]
1997–98	725	206	216
1998–99	913	171	281
1999–2000	1,669	258	426
2000–01	2,704	356	968
2001–02	1,097	1,050	849
2002–03	799	557	697
2003–04	701	517	649
2004–05	678	442	348

[1] From time-to-time, responsibility for cases in particular local authority areas are redistributed between Ombudsmen, so as to even out the Ombudsmen's workloads.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local authorities have transferred administration of housing benefit to another provider due to persistent failure to meet required standards in each of the last five years. [5455]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Local authorities can choose whether they administer housing benefit themselves or use other service providers for part or all of the process.

The Secretary of State also has the power to require a local authority to use a different provider where it has failed to meet the requirements of statutory directions to improve its performance. It has not been considered necessary to use this power.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which software systems are used in the housing benefit pathfinders to administer housing benefit. [5470]

Mr. Plaskitt: The software systems being used by the nine LHA Pathfinder authorities are provided by the following IT suppliers: Anite; Civica; Academy; and SX3.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how often housing benefit claimants are required to renew their claims *(a)* in the pathfinder areas and *(b)* in other areas, broken down by region. [5474]

Mr. Plaskitt: Since October 2003 in the case of pensioners, and since April 2004 in the case of other people, housing benefit claims no longer have to be renewed.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make a statement on the conclusions of the research on the single room rent restriction; [5633]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the research into the single room rent restriction. [5634]

Mr. Plaskitt: This research, which was published on 9 June 2005 as part of the Department for Work and Pensions Research series (Report number 243), confirms that the proportion of young people facing a shortfall, between benefit and rent, is on a downward trend and those who occupy accommodation covered

by the single room rent definition face similar levels of shortfall, on average, to other claimants subject to the Local Reference Rent.

This research also identifies problems young people can face when trying to rent in the private rented sector and we will consider carefully whether there are further improvements we can make to the housing benefit scheme which will help alleviate these.

The report is available in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incapacity benefit recipients live in each authority area listed in descending order; and if he will make a statement. [971]

Mrs. McGuire: The information has been placed in the Library.

Medical Examination Centres

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the medical examination centres in the UK which are *(a)* to be closed and *(b)* to remain open. [5235]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* As part of detailed discussion following the award of a new medical services contract the Department and Atos Origin are discussing a range of proposals including an estates strategy that would both improve service standards and secure investment in other areas. Further information will be made available once these discussions have been concluded.

National Insurance Contracted-out Rebate

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received the national insurance contracted-out rebate; and what the *(a)* total value of the rebate and *(b)* the average value per person of the rebate has been in each of the last five years. [7038]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the table:

Great Britain

	Number of people who received the contracted-out rebate (million)	*Total value (£ billion)*	*Average value (£)*
2004–05	10.5	10.3	980
2003–04	10.7	10.1	940
2002–03	11.1	10.4	940
2001–02	11.1	9.0	810
2000–01	11.1	8.7	780

Notes:

(a) Numbers of people contracted out are rounded to 100,000, "Total Value" amounts are rounded to £100 million and "Average Value" amounts are rounded to £10.

(b) Estimates are for Great Britain only, not UK, and are consistent with Budget 2005 projections.

(c) Estimates of the number of people contracted out are based on the average numbers contracted out in any week earning above the Lower Earnings Limit and not on the total numbers contracted out during the year.

(d) The "Total Value" of the rebate includes rebates to all Contracted-out Salary Relate Schemes, Contracted-out Money Purchase Schemes and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes and Stakeholder Schemes. It also includes the cost of the employer's share of the rebate.

(e) Figures up to and including 2001–02 are based on published data on the numbers of people contracted out. Figures for 2002–03 to 2004–05 are based on estimates of the number of people contracted out.

Source:

Government Actuary's Department

Pension Commission

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the consultation on the findings of the Pension Commission will be completed. [4725]

Mr. Timms: The Pension Commission's consultation on issues raised in its first report "Pensions; Challenges and Choices" ended 31 January 2005. The Commission is expected to publish its Final Report before the end of 2005.

We want to build a national consensus on a long-term solution to adequate income in retirement. We intend to ensure that the widest possible dialogue takes place prior to and beyond the publication of the Pensions Commission report as part of our National Pensions Debate.

Pensions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the take-up of pension credit by pensioners whose first language is not English. [5751]

Mr. Timms: Reliable information on the ethnicity of those entitled to income related benefits is not currently available. The Department will continue to use the findings of research in order to identify the barriers to take-up among people from ethnic minorities, including those whose first language is not English, and ways to overcome them. The Department will also continue to seek to improve the quality of the data which it holds on the ethnicity of its customers and the way in which this information is collected. Information on pension credit, as with other benefits or entitlements, is available in a number of languages and applications can be taken by telephone in languages other than English.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Islington *(a)* received state pension, *(b)* applied for pension credit and *(c)* received pension credit in each of the last three years; and what the average pension credit payment was in each year. [5752]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of people in receipt of State Pension and Pension Credit in the local authority area of Islington, and average awards, is set out in the following two tables. Information on the number of people who have applied for or are eligible for Pension Credit is not available in respect of individual local authority areas or constituencies.

Table 1: State pension claimants, Islington local authority area, September 2002 to September 2004

	Claimants	Average award (£)
2002	19,400	79.03
2003	18,500	81.03
2004	19,300	82.96

Notes:

1. Numbers of claimants are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Numbers of claimants are based on a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 5 per cent. sample

Table 2: Pension credit recipients, Islington local authority area, December 2003 to March 2005

	Households	Individuals	Average award (£)
December 2003	7,830	9,100	64.92
December 2004	8,985	10,460	62.50
March 2005	9,145	10,640	62.17

Notes:

1. Number of households and individuals are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Figures relate to the end of the month.
3. Individuals comprise claimants and partners and may contain a small number of partners aged under 60.
4. Pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee from 6 October 2003.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS directory.
6. The figures for March 2005 are the latest available.

Source:

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 100 per cent. sample

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department is taking to ensure the equality of women's pensions compared to men's pensions. [6987]

Mr. Timms: The proportion of women retiring with a full basic state pension will rise substantially over the next 20 years. Measures such as Home Responsibilities Protection, improved participation in the labour market and tax credits have all contributed to this. In addition, with the introduction of state second pension, the proportion of women who are now accruing significant second state pension rights is similar to that of men. This represents a major improvement on the old system of SERPS.

Of course we want to do more. That is why one of our principles for reform is that the pensions system should produce fair outcomes for women and carers. We have embarked on a National Pensions Debate to build consensus as to the best way to achieve this. As part of this debate we will be publishing an analysis of women's pension position.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Coventry, South *(a)* received state pension, *(b)* applied for pension credit and *(c)* received pension credit in each of the last three years; and what the average pension credit payment was in each year. [6988]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of people in receipt of state pension and pension credit in Coventry, South, and average awards, is set out in the following two tables. Information on the number of people who have applied for or are eligible for pension credit is not available in respect of individual constituencies.

Table 1: State pension recipients, Coventry, South, September 2002 to September 2004

Date	Recipients	Average award (£)
September 2002	15,200	80.30
September 2003	16,400	83.82
September 2004	16,700	86.10

Notes:

1. Numbers of recipients are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Numbers of recipients are based on a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 5 per cent. sample

Table 2: Pension credit recipients, Coventry, South, December 2003 to March 2005

Date	Households	Individuals	Average award (£)
December 2003	3,895	4,580	46.57
December 2004	4,690	5,575	44.55
March 2005	4,805	5,715	44.10

Notes:

1. Numbers of households and individuals are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Figures relate to the end of the month.
3. Individuals comprise claimants and partners and may contain a small number of partners aged under 60.
4. Pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee from 6 October 2003.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS directory.
6. The figures for March 2005 are the latest available.

Source:

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 100 per cent. sample

Pensions Regulator

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances the Pensions Regulator may refuse to respond to correspondence from a member of the public. [4778]

Mr. Timms: There will be occasions when it is necessary to refuse to continue correspondence with an individual complainant or enquirer. This could be, for example, where the correspondence is seeking information which the Regulator considers to be exempt from disclosure under the Pensions Act 2004, the Data Protection or Freedom of Information Acts, the

Environmental Information Regulations, or where in exceptional cases and after numerous responses the Regulator considers the nature of the correspondence vexatious.

State Pension

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what level of basic state pension a woman is entitled to if she has national insurance contributions or credits for up to 24 per cent. of the 39 years required for her to accumulate a full basic state pension. [5647]

Mr. Timms: She would not be entitled to any basic state pension based on her own contributions but could become entitled if she pays voluntary contributions for at least another year. A married woman can get a basic state pension of around 60 per cent. of their husband's entitlement when both have reached state pension age and make a claim, regardless of her contributions.

We are seeking consensus on how best we could achieve a fair outcome in terms of state pension entitlement for women and carers which is one of the six key principles that will guide our work in meeting the pensions challenge.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the position is with regard to national insurance contributions towards a basic state pension of a person who earns less than the lower earnings limit in part-time work throughout her career while caring for children; [5649]

(2) what the position is with regard to national insurance contributions or credits towards a basic state pension of a person who cares for another for less than 35 hours a week and does a job earning less than the lower earnings limit. [5650]

Mr. Timms: We recognise that caring responsibility on its own would not entitle a person to a basic state pension. We have embarked on the national debate to achieve consensus on future pension policy. Producing fair outcomes for women and carers is one of the principles guiding reform.

Underfunded Pension Schemes

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions why an age limit of within three years of normal retirement age on 14 May 2004 was set for those eligible to claim payment from the Financial Assistance Scheme for under funded pension schemes; what provisions have been made for those who fall outside the age limit; what is being done to help small firms who have lost their pension funds; and if he will make a statement. [4720]

Mr. Timms: Our priority is getting help to those facing the most urgent difficulties being closest to, or already at, retirement age and therefore less able to make provision to replace their lost pensions. As the funding available is limited we need to ensure that any assistance we provide will make a considerable impact. That is why the draft regulations on the Financial Assistance Scheme(FAS), which we issued for consultation on 4 April, provide help to those within three years of their scheme pension age, or above their scheme pension age, on 14 May 2004. Members of pension schemes set up by small firms will be eligible for such help provided the schemes and members also meet the other qualifying criteria. Following the end of the consultation period, draft regulations setting up FAS will be laid in Parliament shortly. We have made a commitment to review FAS, including its funding, in the next Spending Review.

Winter Heating Allowance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of *(a)* the winter heating allowance and *(b)* means-tested benefits for pensioners over (i) 65, (ii) 67, (iii) 70 and (iv) 75 years, in (A) 2005–06, (B) 2010–11, (C) 2020–21, (D) 2030–31, (E) 2040–41 and (F) 2050–51 assuming the uprating of such allowances and benefits is continued on the same basis as that announced for the current year and the basic state pension is uprated on the same basis as announced for 2005–06. [6325]

Mr. Timms: The expenditure figures are given in the following table.

	2005–06	*2010–11*	*2020–21*	*2030–31*	*2040–41*	*2050–51*
Age 65 and over						
Winter Fuel Payments	1,600	950	900	800	700	550
Pension Credit	5,400	7,950	12,500	19,650	28,850	39,000
Housing Benefits	6,100	6,800	8,850	11,500	14,350	16,700
Age 67 and over						
Winter Fuel Payments	1,450	850	800	750	650	500
Pension Credit	4,950	7,300	11,600	18,250	27,250	36,800
Housing Benefits	5,550	6,150	8,100	10,500	13,400	15,450
Age 70 and over						
Winter Fuel Payments	1,250	700	700	600	550	450
Pension Credit	4,300	6,500	10,300	16,350	24,700	33,800
Housing Benefits	4,800	5,350	7,000	9,100	11,750	13,800

	2005–06	2010–11	2020–21	2030–31	2040–41	2050–51
Age 75 and over						
Winter Fuel Payments	900	500	450	450	400	350
Pension Credit	3,350	5,050	7,900	13,150	20,050	28,550
Housing Benefits	3,500	4,250	5,100	6,850	8,900	11,000

Notes:
1. All expenditure is in current (2005–06) prices and represents UK expenditure. Expenditure expressed in £ million, rounded to the nearest £50 million.
2. The expenditure given for winter fuel payment does not include one-off age-related payments.
3. In 2005–06 the winter fuel payment per household where householder(s) are up to age 79 is £200. For those 80 years and over this is £300. These allowances are reduced to £150 for all households after 2005–06.
4. After 2005–06 the winter fuel payment is a fixed annual payment of £150 in cash terms. As a result—despite increases in the 65+ population between 2005–06 and 2050–51—there is a downwards trend in expenditure when quoted in current prices.
5. Housing benefits include both housing benefit and council tax.
6. All uprating assumptions used are consistent with Budget 2005 published forecasts.

Source:
DWP forecasting models, consistent with Budget 2005.

TRANSPORT

Air Services (Meals)

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the British Nutritional Foundation on the salt content of in-flight meals. [6808]

Ms Buck: The Department has received no representation from the British Nutritional Foundation on the salt content of in-flight meals.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has made to the Aviation Health Unit on the salt content of in-flight meals. [6809]

Ms Buck: The Department has made no representation to the Aviation Health Unit on the salt content of in-flight meals.

Air Travellers (Financial Protection)

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what options for financial protection of travellers have been the subject of discussion between his Department and the Civil Aviation Authority; and if he will make a statement on the proposed timetable for consultation on the preferred option. [7266]

Ms Buck: The options for the financial protection of air travellers discussed with the Civil Aviation Authority include extension of the scope of financial protection to cover all UK-originating international flights, reducing the scope of protection to the minimum permitted under European legislation and maintaining the status quo. The Government have already received many representations, and the principal stakeholders were involved in the analytical work over the past few months.

Bus Services

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make provision for sector tendering for bus services outside London. [4180]

Ms Buck: If by "sector tendering" the hon. Member means the tendering of bus services by a local transport authority over a substantial area, giving the successful tenderer exclusive right to operate in that area, it is possible to do this through a quality contracts scheme under the Transport Act 2000. Such a scheme must be approved by the Secretary of State (or in Wales, the National Assembly for Wales), who must be satisfied that it is the only practicable way of implementing the authority's bus policies and will do so in a way that is economic, efficient and effective.

The Future of Transport White Paper (Cm 6234, July 2004) encouraged the development of combined packages of bus enhancement measures, probably through quality contracts, and measures to reduce traffic congestion.

The Department has issued guidance to English local authorities on applications for approval of quality contracts schemes.

Congestion

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what method his Department uses for calculating congestion; [7530]

(2) what definition of congestion his Department uses. [7531]

Dr. Ladyman: The measure that has been used in the past is derived from comparing actual traffic speeds with those that would be achievable in the absence of congestion. Full details of the methodology are available on the Department's website at www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_transstats/documents/page/dft_transstats_021863.pdf.

However, the Department has always acknowledged the limitations of measuring congestion in this way and is currently developing new, more detailed data sources and new measures of traffic congestion.

Crossrail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of whether the Eurostar Depot at North Pole could accommodate the Crossrail fleet. [7496]

Derek Twigg: On 26 May 2005, Cross London Rail Link's released a report on Depot Location Options. The reports details the selection and assessment of all the sites considered which includes the North Pole depot.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the Westlands Playing Field and adjacent land is returned to its original use when it is no longer required for the Crossrail worksite. [7497]

Derek Twigg: Measures to mitigate the impacts of Crossrail on the Westlands Playing Field are currently under discussion with the London borough of Havering. The intention is however to return the site to its original use.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects the Crossrail maintenance depot in Romford to operate 24 hours a day. [7498]

Derek Twigg: The Romford Depot is expected to operate on a 24 hours a day basis.

Departmental Finance and Payroll Contract

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects that the planned Enterprise Option centralising the Department's finance and payroll functions will use the Partners Achieving Change Together contract; and whether it is compliant with EU public sector procurement rules. [6555]

Ms Buck: The Department intends to use the PACT contract to obtain professional advice on the implementation of its shared services project, which will cover finance, payroll and HR activities. The terms of the PACT contract are such that its use on this project is compliant with EU public sector procurement rules.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6265]

Ms Buck: The Department and its Agencies are implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 66 posts out of London and the South East by 2010.

So far, the department has relocated 12 posts from London to Hastings, a relatively deprived area in the South East. A further 13 posts will also relocate there. Timing is dependent on other efficiency programme decisions.

Driving Tests

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average waiting time for tests was at each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency driving test centre in the last year for which figures are available, ranked in order. [7104]

Mr. Darling: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is responsible for delivering the driving test. The Agency publishes each week on its website data on the availability of practical tests for learner drivers at each of the permanent test centres which indicates average waiting times.

House Building (Traffic)

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how plans to reduce the level of motorway noise will be adjusted to take account of changes in traffic flow resulting from increased levels of house building in the South East. [6982]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government will in 2007 publish maps of noise from motorways. These maps will be updated at least every five years to take into account any changes in conditions and plans to reduce noise levels will be reviewed accordingly.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the Government's house building targets for the South East on *(a)* traffic flows and *(b)* consequent noise levels on the M3 between junctions 5 and 7. [6983]

Dr. Ladyman: Changes to traffic flows on the M3 between junctions 5 and 7 will depend upon the future location of housing which, in the first instance, will be determined by the South East Plan, currently being drafted by the South East England Regional Assembly. The Highways Agency is contributing to deliberations on the draft Plan.

We will be reviewing plans to reduce the level of motorway noise as the result of the noise maps that will be published in 2007 in accordance with EU Directive 2002/49/EC.

M3

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when noise levels between Junction 5 and 7 on the M3 were last monitored; and whether there have been changes in the noise levels over time. [6980]

Dr. Ladyman: To calculate road traffic noise levels, the Department uses a model set out in the technical memorandum "Calculation of Road Traffic Noise" rather than roadside noise monitoring, which is subject to variables such as the weather and changing traffic conditions.

Roadside noise levels have not therefore been monitored on the M3 between Junctions 5 and 7. However, assessments have been made using the traffic noise model. Calculations indicate that the level of traffic noise between M3 Junctions 5 and 7 is likely to have increased by around 4.5dB over the last 20 years.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans are in place to reduce the levels of motorway noise for residents living around junctions 5, 6 and 7 of the M3; and when those measures will be completed. [6981]

Dr. Ladyman: Following an assessment of noise severity, noise barriers have already been installed between M3 junctions 6 and 7 adjacent to the areas of Hatch Warren and Black Dam.

A further series of noise mitigation measures is also planned for this section of the M3 Motorway. The proposal is to install noise barriers adjacent to the permanent caravan site at Hatch, between M3 junctions 5 and 6. There are also plans to resurface a section of the

M3 between junctions 5 and 7 to maintain the operational safety of the carriageway and a lower noise surface will be used.

Two further sites at Up Nately and Mapledurwell are being investigated for the possible provision of noise barriers.

Subject to funding, work at the Hatch caravan site work is programmes for 2007 and the resurfacing work in 2008. Following further investigation and availability of funds, work at Up Nately and Mapledurwell will be considered for programming beyond 2009–10.

M40/A40

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will publish the M40/A40 route management strategy. [7040]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency plans to publish this strategy by mid-July.

Mersey Tram

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the Merseytram scheme to proceed. [7118]

Mr. Darling: I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 13 June. The promoters of Merseytram are exploring the scope for progressing Line 1 within the committed funding.

Mini-Motorbikes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to assess the extent of illegal use of mini-motorbikes on *(a)* public roads and *(b)* public spaces. [7243]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department currently has no plans to assess the extent of illegal use of mini-motorbikes on public roads and spaces, but we do appreciate that misuse of these vehicles can cause significant alarm, harassment or distress to local communities. I understand that the Home Office has received representations from the police about illegal and irresponsible use of miniature vehicles and is examining what more might be done to tackle this problem.

Motorways/Trunk Roads

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total length is of UK *(a)* motorways and *(b)* trunk roads; and how many miles of each were built in each year since 1997. [460]

Dr. Ladyman: Roads in Scotland and Wales are the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales respectively. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is responsible for motorway building in Northern Ireland. There is no designation of trunk roads in Northern Ireland.

The English road network currently comprises 1,833 miles of motorway and 3,096 miles of all-purpose trunk roads.

The major schemes (costing more than £5 million) completed on the trunk road network from 1997 to date, and their approximate length, are shown in the tables. Some of the roads listed have since been detrunked, or have become the responsibility of the Greater London authority.

The road schemes represent improvements rather than necessarily additions to the length of the trunk road network. For example, some represent road widening schemes and some bypasses of routes which are detrunked on completion of the bypass.

All purpose trunk road	*Scheme description*	*Date of completion*	*Length (miles)*
A69	Newcastle—Carlisle (DBFO)	May 1997	2.2
A13	Thames Avenue—Wennington	June 1997	4.8
A50	Blythe Bridge—Queensway Phase I	June 1997	3.1
A564	Derby Southern Bypass and Derby Spur Contract A	September 1997	16.9
A50	Blythe Bridge—Queensway Phase II	November 1997	0.8
A417/A419	Stratton Bypass (DBFO)	December 1997	6.4
A417/A419	Latton Bypass (DBFO)	December 1997	3.5
A406	Silver Street—Fore Street Imp. LB Enfield	Late 1997	0.6
Total 1997	—	—	38.3
A417/A419	Nettleton Improvement (DBFO)	January 1998	4.1
A50/A564	Stoke—Derby Link (DBFO)	March 1998	4.8
A16	Market Deeping/Deeping St. James Bypass	July 1998	4.0
A19/A168	Dishforth—Tyne Tunnel (DBFO)	September 1998	4.3
A13	Wennington—Mar Dyke	October 1998	2.0
A12	Hackney Wick—M11 Contract II	November 1998	1.5
A34	Newbury Bypass	November 1998	8.3
Total 1998	—	—	29.0
A30/A35	Puddleton Bypass (DBFO)	April 1999	5.6
A12	Hackney Wick—M11 Contract 1	August 1999	0.9
A12	Hackney Wick—M11 Contract 4	August 1999	1.1
A564	Derby Southern Bypass Contract B	August 1999	0.5
A12	Hackney Wick—M11 Contract 3	October 1999	0.5
A13	West of Heathway—Thames Avenue	December 1999	1.7
Total 1999	—	—	10.3

All purpose trunk road	Scheme description	Date of completion	Length (miles)
A30/A35	Honiton—Exeter (DBFO)	April 2000	13.7
Total 2000	—	—	13.7
A1	Tempsford Junction Improvements	October 2001	2.2
Total 2001	—	—	2.2
A27	Polegate Bypass	June 2002	1.8
A43	Silverstone Bypass	September 2002	5.0
A43	Whitfield Turn—Brackley Hatch Improvement	September 2002	2.8
A43	M40—B4031 Dualling	September 2002	4.0
A6	Clapham Bypass	December 2002	3.1
A66	Stainburn and Great Clifton Bypass	December 2002	2.4
Total 2002	—	—	19.1
A6	Great Glen Bypass	February 2003	3.5
A1	Willburn—Denwick Improvement (DBFO)	March 2003	2.6
A11	Roudham Heath—Attleborough Improvement	March 2003	6.2
A5	Nesscliffe Bypass	March 2003	2.8
A500	Basford, Hough, Shavington Bypass	May 2003	4.7
A46	Newark—Lincoln Improvement	July 2003	8.0
A6	Rothwell—Desborough Bypass	August 2003	3.7
A6	Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass	August 2003	3.4
A41	Aston Clinton Bypass	October 2003	4.0
A1033	Hedon Road Improvement	November 2003	4.2
A6	Alvaston Bypass	December 2003	1.4
A650	Bingley Relief Road	December 2003	3.1
Total 2003	—	—	47.5
A63	Selby Bypass	June 2004	6.1
A120	Stansted—Braintree Improvement	July 2004	14.9
A34	Chieveley M4 J13 Improvement	September 2004	1.9
A1	Stannington Junction	October 2004	0.0
A10	Wadesmill Colliers End	October 2004	4.7
A2	Bean-Cobham Phase I	December 2004	3.7
Total 2004	—	—	31.3
A21	Lamberhurst Bypass	March 2005	1.6
A64	Colton Lane Grade Separated Junction	June 2005	0.0
Total 2005	—	—	1.6

Motorway	Scheme description	Date of completion	Length (miles)
A1(M)	Walshford-Dishforth	May 1997	13.0
M25	J8–10 Widening	September 1997	12.4
M1/M621	Link Roads	October 1997	0.4
M65	Blackburn Southern Bypass Contract I	December 1997	5.5
M65	Blackburn Southern Bypass Contract II	December 1997	5.5
M66	Denton—Middleton Contract II (Junction)	December 1997	0.0
Total 1997	—	—	36.8
M5	J18–19 Widening	July 1998	2.1
A1(M)	Alconbury—Peterborough (DBFO	October 1998	12.9
M40	M40 Denham—Warwick (DBFO) J1A-J3	December 1998	7.5
Total 1998	—	—	22.5
M1-A1	Lofthouse—Bramham Link Road (DBFO)	May 1999	18.6
Total 1999	—	—	18.6
M66	Denton—Middleton Contract I	October 2000	3.7
M66	Denton—Middleton Contract III	October 2000	5.6
Total 2000	—	—	9.3
A2/M2	Cobham to Junction 4 Widening	July 2003	10.6
M6	Toll	December 2003	26.8
Total 2003	—	—	37.4

Ports

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will issue guidelines for the ports industry on preparing proposals to increase port capacity; [6896]

(2) if he will establish a sequential test for ports planning which takes into account *(a)* environmental sustainability, *(b)* regeneration and *(c)* the impact on the local economy of port development; [6897]

(3) what plans he has to integrate port development into a sustainable transport strategy for the UK; [6898]

(4) what his latest estimate is of how much additional port capacity will be required in the UK over the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years; [6899]

(5) what assessment he has made of comparative *(a)* environmental impact and *(b)* impact on productivity of port expansion proposals. [6900]

Dr. Ladyman: The forthcoming review of ports policy will address questions around port capacity and future port development. As part of the preparatory work for the review, the Department has commissioned consultants to produce national port traffic forecasts for Great Britain through to 2030. These forecasts will be disaggregated by region and traffic type, and will be published as part of the review.

The Department issued guidance on new port developments in April 2003. "A Project Appraisal Framework for Ports" aims to assist promoters of, those affected by, and others who may wish to make representations about, port developments. In arriving at decisions on these developments, the factors that have been considered will be made clear at the time those decisions are made.

The review will also look at wider issues, including environmental factors, local regeneration, productivity, and the role of ports in our overall transport strategy.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [6117]

Ms Buck: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1060W.

Rail Passengers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic movements there are on average each day between South Preston and North Warrington on the M6. [6637]

Dr. Ladyman: The average number of vehicles using the M6 between junction 30, in the vicinity of South Preston, and junction 21, in the vicinity of North Warrington, on each weekday in 2004, is provided in the table.

Average 24 hour traffic volumes—2004

Location	*Direction*	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*	*Sunday*
J21 to 21A	Northbound	67,307	69,490	70,604	72,684	77,449	55,027	53,004
	Southbound	64,889	64,980	64,940	65,499	66,281	51,092	54,905
	Comb.	132,196	134,470	135,544	138,183	143,730	106,119	107,909
J21A to J22	Northbound	42,801	44,309	45,184	46,671	48,746	34,829	32,605
	Southbound	52,631	52,603	52,628	53,273	54,343	38,131	42,217
	Comb.	95,432	96,912	97,812	99,944	103,089	72,960	74,822
J22 to J23	Northbound	47,706	49,399	50,845	40,725	49,893	32,592	29,608
	Southbound	51,683	51,088	51,615	50,128	53,284	34,693	38,629
	Comb.	99,389	100,487	102,460	90,853	103,177	67,285	68,237
J23 to J24	Northbound	52,810	52,645	52,805	53,570	55,372	38,545	42,638
	Southbound	51,461	53,325	54,315	56,856	63,057	41,816	37,579
	Comb.	104,271	105,970	107,120	110,426	118,429	80,361	80,217
J25 to J26	Northbound	48,828	50,335	51,417	53,260	59,193	39,973	36,666
	Southbound	51,120	50,648	50,815	51,734	53,671	38,170	42,946
	Comb.	99,948	100,983	102,232	104,994	112,864	78,143	79,612
J27 to J28	Northbound	43,710	44,468	45,725	47,086	53,509	36,117	32,604
	Southbound	45,281	44,098	44,476	44,534	46,118	30,051	36,349
	Comb.	88,991	88,566	90,201	91,620	99,627	66,168	68,953
J28 to J29	Northbound	47,466	48,722	49,908	51,487	58,968	39,140	34,347
	Southbound	47,868	47,011	47,965	48,287	50,756	35,853	40,414
	Comb.	95,334	95,733	97,873	99,774	109,724	74,993	74,761
J29 to J30	Northbound	39,934	39,274	39,461	40,762	47,940	32,487	30,101
	Southbound	39,889	38,943	38,972	39,160	41,456	30,084	34,895
	Comb.	79,823	78,217	78,433	79,922	89,396	62,571	64,996

Railways

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many community rail line designations have been made so far. [7115]

Mr. Darling: Three lines have been designated as community rail lines. These are the routes from Watford Junction to St. Albans Abbey (the Abbey line); Middlesbrough to Whitby (the Esk Valley line); and St. Ives to St. Erth (the St. Ives Bay line).

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the railway industry about the construction of increased capacity at pinch points on the network. [7117]

Mr. Darling: The Strategic Rail Authority has begun a series of route utilisation strategies (RUS) to determine the most efficient use of existing network infrastructure which will help to inform the need for future network development. Network Rail will take this work on as the SRA is wound-down under the provisions of the Railways Act 2005.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which light rail schemes his Department expects to be completed and in operation by 2010. [7119]

Mr. Darling: My Department is considering a number of new light rail scheme proposals, including extensions to existing systems. Completion and operation dates for schemes will depend on the outcomes of our consideration of these proposals.

Road Charging Research

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he commissioned his research on road charging; what the cost was of the research; whether he announced the commissioning of the research at the time it was commissioned; when he made his decisions about the use that would be made of the research; and if he will make a statement. [4974]

Dr. Ladyman: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport announced in a statement to the House on 9 July 2003 a feasibility study into the potential for road pricing in the UK. The Feasibility Study of Road Pricing in the UK was published by the Department for Transport in July 2004.

The total cost of road pricing research contracts issued between the announcement and publication of the feasibility study was £1,072,838 including VAT.

In line with its manifesto commitment, the Government are examining the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing. Further research will be undertaken in due course.

Road Pricing

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will allow a reduced rate for people with disabilities as part of his proposed road pricing system. [6282]

Dr. Ladyman: In line with their manifesto commitments, the Government are examining the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing. The issue of exemptions and discounts for people with restricted mobility would need careful consideration in any scheme design.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will set up his proposed road pricing system to charge more to more heavily polluting vehicles and less to vehicles with a lower environmental impact. [6283]

Dr. Ladyman: In line with their manifesto commitments, the Government are examining the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing. For any road pricing scheme developed, we would ensure that incentives for cleaner vehicles are safeguarded in order to contribute to meeting our environmental targets.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the proposed pilot schemes for road pricing will operate; when he expects the first pilot scheme to become operational; and if he will make a statement. [5920]

Dr. Ladyman: As our manifesto promised, the Government are examining the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing. Although there would need to be one or more pilots for a future national road pricing scheme, no decisions have been made about the timing, nature or location of any such pilots. The "Future of Transport" White Paper (July 2004) announced our intention to establish a Transport Innovation Fund to give incentives to develop and deploy innovative local transport packages, support innovative mechanisms which raise alternative funding mechanisms and support the funding of regional, inter-regional and local schemes that are beneficial to national productivity. Further details on the aims and operation of the Fund will be published shortly.

However, the Secretary of State has confirmed that ultimately up to £200 million a year will be made available from the Fund to support local authorities implementing innovative solutions to congestion problems in their local areas where these include demand management based on pricing.

Road Safety

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn) of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 26W, on road safety, if he will discuss with the Highways Agency conducting further research on distraction to drivers caused by roadside advertising on motorways. [5768]

Dr. Ladyman: It is difficult to derive a direct causal relationship between the presence of roadside advertisements and other potential distractions to road accidents because accidents do not happen very often, and when they do, are the result of a number of factors. Therefore, while the Highways Agency will continue to assess the impact and likely safety consequences of individual roadside advertisements, I do not believe that further research is likely to be any more effective in establishing such a link.

Safety Cameras

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving *(a)* injuries and *(b)* loss of life (i) have taken place in each year since the installation of speed cameras and (ii) took place in the year before the installation of speed cameras at the site of each fixed speed camera in the Stroud constituency. [5190]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not held centrally, but the Gloucestershire Safety Camera Partnership has provided the information shown in the attached table on the numbers of personal injury collisions ("PICs"), and the number involving fatalities, before and after the setting up of the camera sites.

The Gloucestershire Safety Camera Partnership can be contacted via their website at www.glossafetycameras.org.uk.

Fixed speed cameras in Stroud constituency—number of personal injury collisions (PICs), including collisions involving fatalities, before and after setting-up of sites

	Camera site				
	A38 Cambridge	*A4135 Dursley*	*A419 Caincross (in)*	*A419 Caincross (out)*	*A38 Whitminster*
Collisions before setting up					
3 years	[1]5	[2]2	[3]1	0	[2]4
2 years	0	[2]2	[2]2	0	[3]1
1 year	0	[3]4	[3]1	0	[3]5
Date set up	1 April 1997	1 November 2001	1 May 1995	1 May 1995	1 March 1997
Collisions after setting up					
1 year	0	[2]2	[2]2	[3]1	[3]1
2 years	[3]3	[2]2	0	[3]1	[3]1
3 years	[3]1	[3]1	[3]1	[3]1	[3]1
4 years	[3]1	—	[2]2	[3]1	[3]1
5 years	0	—	[3]1	0	[2]2
6 years	[3]1	—	0	[3]5	[3]1
7 years	[3]3	—	[3]1	[3]1	[3]3
8 years	—	—	[3]1	[3]1	[2]2
9 years	—	—	[2]2	[3]1	—
10 years	—	—	[2]2	[3]1	—

[1] Including 1 fatal collision
[2] Including 1 fatal
[3] 0 fatal

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on *(a)* installation of new speed cameras and *(b)* maintenance and removal of existing speed cameras in (i) Cumbria, (ii) Merseyside, (iii) Cheshire, (iv) Greater Manchester and (v) Lancashire in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was raised in revenue by speed cameras in each area in that year. [6186]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department holds funding information for the overall operation of safety camera partnerships, and not the costs relating to the installation, maintenance or removal of camera sites. Detailed information is available from partnerships.

The Department has published on its website the audit certificates for all partnerships. The latest published information is for 2003–04 and this shows that receipts from Fixed Penalty Notices in four of these five areas are as follows:

	£
Cumbria	1,618,740
Cheshire	1,803,840
Greater Manchester	2,887,080
Lancashire	5,073,600

Merseyside joined the safety camera programme on 1 April 2005, so no historic information is available for that partnership.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which 20 speed camera sites have generated the largest income from fines. [7108]

Mr. Darling: The Department's information on fines following offences detected by safety cameras relates to the totals for safety camera partnerships, and not to individual camera sites. Information on the total fine receipts and number of fines for each partnership for the latest audited year 2003–04 is available on the Department's website of responses to Freedom of Information requests.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed speed cameras have been installed in the last six months. [7109]

Mr. Darling: In the six months to 31 May 2005, 54 fixed speed camera sites—approved as part of operational cases submitted by partnerships in 2004–05 or earlier—have been installed by partnerships in England and Wales.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of speed cameras are non-operational at a given time. [7111]

Mr. Darling: Forces' enforcement strategies and the detailed deployment of speed camera equipment between camera sites are police operational matters, and the Department does not hold information on this.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are installed on roads. [7112]

Mr. Darling: The latest information, as held by the Department, was provided in the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 617–19W. Further details of all sites within the safety camera programme are available on the Department's website at www.dft.gov.uk.

Shellhaven London Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list those individuals and bodies that have submitted additional evidence and comments on the proposed Shellhaven London Gateway port public inquiry following his extension of the inquiry in 2005. [5800]

Dr. Ladyman: The Secretary of State extended in January 2005 the period given for the receipt of representations on the new highways evidence submitted by the Applicant. There was no extension of the public inquiry itself.

The Secretary of State received representations and comments during the consultation period, in the extension period and after the end of the extension period from individuals and organisations as listed. In some cases the parties' comments were reiterations of their previous evidence rather than submission of any additional evidence.

Bob Spink MP

The Highways Agency

Thurrock Council

Essex County Council

The Strategic Rail Authority

The Port of Tilbury Ltd.

Shellhaven Project Environmental Action Committee

Essex Police

Council for the Protection of Rural Essex

Thurrock Primary Care Trust

Ramblers' Association (Essex)

Representations were also received from two individual local residents.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the result of the Shellhaven London Gateway port public inquiry. [5801]

Dr. Ladyman: A decision on the Shellhaven London Gateway port public inquiry will be announced as soon as possible when Ministers have completed their consideration of all relevant issues.

Transport Police

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many operational police officers were employed by the British Transport Police in each year since 1997. [7106]

Mr. Darling: The British Transport Police (BTP) have provided the following information on officers employed by the BTP since 1997.

	Number of BTP officers
1997	2,132
1998	2,095
1999	2,113
2000	2,091
2001	2,109
2002	2,123
2003	2,206
2004	2,280
2005	2,494

Tyne Tunnel

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce his response to the public inquiry into the second Tyne tunnel crossing. [7419]

Dr. Ladyman: We expect to be able to announce a decision shortly on the application for a Transport and Works Act Order, in parallel with ODPM taking decisions on related listed building consent applications.

Vehicle Registration

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's preparedness to process all outstanding conversions from V5 to V5C Vehicle Registration before the deadline for the change. [6721]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's internal planning processes, has estimated that, of those Registration Documents that remained to be converted to V5C Registration Certificates no more than half would be surrendered for conversion before the deadline for the change despite its publicity efforts. The Agency has ensured that there are sufficient staff available to process at least this number of conversions.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's advertising campaign to raise awareness of the change from V5 to V5C Vehicle Registration has cost; and what elements the cost comprises. [6722]

Dr. Ladyman: The total cost of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's advertising campaign to raise awareness of the change from V5 Vehicle Registration Document to V5C Vehicle Registration Certificates was £2.7 million. This comprised:

	£
Adverts in the national and motoring press	1,226,000
On-line advertising	111,000
Leaflets and posters	55,000
Public relations	56,000
A two week television advertising campaign	1,252,000

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications for a change from V5 to V5C vehicle registration the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has received in each of the last six months; and what the average processing time has been in each month. [6723]

Dr. Ladyman: For the sixth-month period from December 2004 to May 2005 DVLA processed in excess of 1.2 million V5 vehicle registration documents which resulted in the issue of V5C vehicle registration certificates in respect of vehicles where a V5C had not been issued previously. The volume of V5s processed for each month is December 2004—281,441. January 2005—300,415. February 2005—224,094. March 2005—193,750. April 2005—168,839. May 2005–130,100.

In 2004–05 DVLA's target was to deliver 95 per cent. of V5s within 12 working days of receipt. For 2005–06 the target is to deliver 95 per cent. within 14 working days. This reflects the decision to move to second class post. The actual performance achieved for the last six months is December 2004—96.5 per cent. January 2005—98.63 per cent. February 2005—99.14 per cent. March 2005—98.30 per cent. April 2005—98.92 per cent. May 2005—98.13 per cent.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency of the number of V5 Vehicle Registration documents remaining to be converted to the V5C Vehicles Registration document as at 1 June. [6724]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has estimated that, as of 1 June 2005, the number of V5 Vehicle Registration Documents remaining to be converted to the V5C Registration Certificate was 800,000.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft her Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside her Department. [6951]

Mr. Caborn: My Department *(a)* has had no cases of computer hacking. *(b)* has had no cases of computer fraud. *(c)* has had the following equipment stolen:

2001: 1 Palm Pilot
2002: 1 Mini laptop
1 Laptop
2003: 1 Laptop
1 Desktop PC
2 CPUs
2004: 1 Blackberry
2005: 1 Blackberry

My Department (i) has had no cases of computer systems illegally accessed from within DCMS. (ii) has had one case of computer systems illegally accessed from outside the Department in 2003.

Digital Television (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which areas of Northern Ireland are unable to receive Freeview. [5508]

James Purnell: At present, only the Divis, Limavady and Brougher Mountain transmitters broadcast digital signals in Northern Ireland, to around 58 per cent. of the population.

Due to the already crowded nature of the UHF spectrum, it is not possible to extend coverage significantly beyond this level without switching off the analogue transmissions, which we expect to be completed between 2008 and 2012.

Football Foundation

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was allocated to the Football Foundation by her Department in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* Government region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency; and if she will make a statement. [6941]

Mr. Caborn: The Football Foundation was formed in 2000.

Between 2000–04, the Football Foundation, including the Football Stadia Improvement Fund, received £62 million in funding from Government. Last year, the Government agreed a new funding package of £45 million for the period between 2004–07.

Details of DCMS funding to the Football Foundation broken down by *(a)* Government regions and *(b)* parliamentary constituencies is not available as it is funded into a joint pot comprising match funds from The FA, FA Premier League and Government.

Licensed Premises

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will estimate *(a)* the number of licensed premises and *(b)* the number of licensed premises serving food in each local authority in England. [7492]

James Purnell: Statistical information on licensed premises is not held by local authority area. It has been collated by Court area, reflecting the previous licensing regime. In collecting this data, the Courts have made no distinction between pubs which serve food, and those which do not. However, based on that information and my Departments own estimates, the national position is as follows:

(a) in England, there are 105,595 establishments licensed to sell alcohol on the premises; and

(b) between 90 per cent. and 95 per cent. of these establishments serve prepared food.

Sports Clubs (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* football, *(b)* rugby, *(c)* tennis, *(d)* athletics, *(e)* hockey and *(f)* swimming clubs in London in each of the last five years. [5303]

Mr. Caborn: My Department does not hold this information.

Village Hall Committees

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of

21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 895W, on village hall committees, what reports she has received from police and licensing authorities on whether village hall committees have been, or are, carrying on a business without an appropriate licence. [7580]

James Purnell *[pursuant to the reply, 21 June 2005, Official Report, c. 895W]:* I can confirm that my Department has received no reports from the police or licensing authorities on whether village hall committees have been, or are, carrying on a business without an appropriate licence.

SCOTLAND

Consultants

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7026]

David Cairns: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given today by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5130]

David Cairns: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

Taxis

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6496]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office spent the following on taxis:

	£
2000–01	7,853
2001–02	8,518
2002–03	10,130
2003–04	8,960
2004–05	8,266

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [6922]

Dr. Howells: The security situation in Afghanistan remains stable but fragile. Elements opposed to the democratic process continue to carry out periodic attacks against the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and coalition forces, international and Afghan NGO personnel, and the Afghan people. Such attacks are likely to increase in the run-up to parliamentary and provincial elections in September. As with the presidential election in October 2004, ISAF and coalition forces will support the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to provide a secure environment for the elections.

Correspondence

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letters of 16 March and 31 January from the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State regarding Ms Marisa Namprom. [6651]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* UK visas, the Department responsible for entry clearance matters arising overseas, sent a letter on this matter to the hon. Member on 22 June 2005.

Corruption

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 329W, on overseas corruption, from which missions each allegation came; on what date each was received; and to which law enforcement agency each was forwarded. [6425]

Ian Pearson: Under the current arrangements for handling allegations under part 12 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, all such allegations were passed to the National Criminal Intelligence Service. However, these arrangements are about to be revised to give the Serious Fraud Office the central role on future allegations. The Government refrain from commenting on the specific origin of these allegations to avoid prejudicing continuing law enforcement investigations.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list seminars and presentations organised by the Government for the UK business community since December 2003 to raise awareness of the UK's obligations under *(a)* the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Anti-Bribery Convention and *(b)* Part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [6468]

Ian Pearson: The events in question can take many forms, ranging from presentations at large formal events to smaller briefing sessions or discussions. Since December 2003, the Government (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) have spoken at events for the UK business community covering foreign bribery in the following countries: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Kuwait, Iran and China. The next such event is planned for Moscow at the end of July.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received regarding recent *(a)* investigations and *(b)* prosecutions of UK companies in connection with corruption overseas. [7234]

Ian Pearson: I understand that 24 matters referred to UK law enforcement under part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 since February 2002 are under investigation. In those cases under investigation, no charges have yet been brought under these provisions and it would not be appropriate to comment on operations which are currently in progress.

Hong Kong

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chinese Government on the appointment of the new Chief Executive for Hong Kong, Sir Donald Tsang. [6623]

Ian Pearson: We have not had any discussions with the Chinese Government about Donald Tsang's appointment as Hong Kong's new Chief Executive.

Donald Tsang was the only candidate to gain sufficient Election Committee nominations to stand for Chief Executive. In accordance with the basic law, the State Council of the Chinese Central Government formally appointed Donald Tsang as Hong Kong's new Chief Executive on 21 June 2005.

Donald Tsang has a distinguished record of serving the people of Hong Kong and we are confident that he will continue to do so as Chief Executive. We have excellent relations with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and we are confident that our ties will continue to flourish under the new Chief Executive. As signatories of the joint declaration, we take seriously our commitment to ensure a stable, democratic and prosperous future for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress towards democracy in Hong Kong. [6624]

Ian Pearson: The Government supports democracy throughout the world as the best means of creating stable, accountable and transparent government, of protecting rights and freedoms, and of upholding the rule of law.

The ultimate aim of the basic law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) is a Chief Executive and Legislative Council elected by universal suffrage. We favour early progress to this end. We hope that the Hong Kong SAR Government will take full account of the wishes of the people of Hong Kong.

We noted that the legislative council elections in September 2004 were generally well run. For the first time half of the 60 members of the Legislative Council were elected directly by the people with a record number of the electorate, more than 55 per cent. turning out to vote.

The Hong Kong SAR Government taskforce on constitutional reform was expected to issue its fifth and final report in the spring of this year. The final report will contain definitive proposals on the methods by which the Chief Executive and Legislative Council are to be elected in 2007 and 2008. However, following the resignation of the Chief Executive in March, the publication of the report has been delayed until the appointment of the new Chief Executive.

We will continue to watch this issue closely and look forward to seeing the task force's proposals.

Iran

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to meet a representative of the Iranian Government to discuss the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran. [6581]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary currently has no plans to meet the Iranian Foreign Minister or any other member of the Iranian Government.

We continue to have serious concerns about the situation of the Baha'i community in Iran. Reports suggest that a number of Baha'is have recently been arrested. We have pressed the Iranian authorities on many occasions to allow the Baha'is to practise their faith without interference, and will continue to do so, both bilaterally and through the EU.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment the UK embassy in Iran has made of Iranian Government policy towards Bahá'is; what assessment he has made of whether the policies set out in the 1991 memorandum entitled The Bahá'í Question, drafted by the Revolutionary Cultural Council of Iran remain official Government policy in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [6905]

Dr. Howells: We are not aware that the Iranian authorities have acknowledged the authenticity of the 1991 memorandum, nor commented in detail on current policy towards the Bahá'ís. The Bahá'ís are the largest non-Muslim religious group in Iran, yet unlike Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians, are not recognised in Iran's constitution. Members of the Bahá'í community have suffered intimidation and harassment, had property confiscated and been denied access to education and employment, apparently on account of their faith. A number of Bahá'í sites have been demolished, organisers of Bahá'í community activities have reportedly been harassed and the Bahá'í faith has been denigrated in the state-owned media. Many of these acts appear to have been carried out by, or with the support or acquiescence of, the Iranian authorities.

We have raised our concerns about the situation of the Bahá'ís in Iran with the Iranian authorities on many occasions, and will continue to do so, bilaterally and with our European Union partners.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what investigations he is undertaking into the detention and deportation from Israel on 7/8 May of a delegation of

women from Birmingham at Tel Aviv airport; and what representations he is making to the Government of Israel on the matter. [4225]

Dr. Howells: Staff from the British embassy in Tel Aviv and the British consulate general in Jerusalem contacted the Israeli authorities several times regarding Israel's decision to detain the delegation of women from Birmingham on the night of 7/8 May. The British embassy in Tel Aviv is also raising this incident with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Israeli Government have the right to decide on matters of leave to enter Israel. The various procedures of security staff at entry points to Israel are a matter for the Israeli Government and are outside our direct control. Our own procedures are similarly protected. But we have raised on many occasions the manner in which the Israeli immigration and security authorities treat British travellers at points of entry.

Luke Noble

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Governor of the British Virgin Islands about the sentence issued by the court in the case of Luke Noble. [6999]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The British Virgin Islands' judiciary acts independently of the Territory's Government, of which the Governor is the constitutional head, and of the United Kingdom Government. There is no provision allowing for the prosecution to appeal sentence at present, although I understand this situation is under review.

Nigeria

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action the Government are taking to ensure the security of British citizens working in Nigeria in relation to terrorist threats. [7535]

Ian Pearson: The British High Commission in Nigeria maintains close contact with the Nigerian authorities on security issues, including terrorism. It also maintains a network of over 100 British community liaison officers throughout Nigeria, and stays in close contact with those who employ large numbers of British citizens. Like other British diplomatic posts, the High Commission has emergency plans to guide response to incidents involving British citizens. Information on potential security threats, including terrorism, is included in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) travel advice for Nigeria, available on the FCO's website: www.fco.gov.uk

North Korea

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the future of the Six Party Talks on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear programme. [6767]

Ian Pearson: The Six Party Talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), China, the US, Russia, South Korea and Japan began in 2003 but participants have not met since June 2004. We fully support this process as the best means to resolve international concern over the DPRK nuclear issue. We have regularly urged the Government of North Korea to return to the Six Party Talks, and to engage constructively with a view to agreement on the verifiable dismantlement of all its nuclear weapons programmes. There have been recent reports suggesting that North Korean leaders may be ready to resume talks soon. We hope that is the case and that they will do so in a constructive spirit without preconditions.

Prisoner Abuse (US Forces)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the United States Administration on reports of prisoner abuse by US forces; and if he will make a statement. [6411]

Ian Pearson: We condemn utterly all acts of abuse.

We maintain a regular dialogue with the US Government on a great many foreign policy issues, including at the highest levels, about allegations of abuse by US forces.

The US authorities have conducted a number of inquiries into these allegations, and where there has been evidence of abuse, individuals have been punished.

Sir David Manning

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list Sir David Manning's engagements for 6 June. [4891]

Ian Pearson: Sir David Manning's engagements for 6 June included meetings with His Excellency Mr. Franciskus van Daele, ambassador of Belgium, and Mr. Mark Everson, commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service; hosting the British school graduation ceremony and introducing the British headmistress; and introducing and attending a lecture delivered by Mrs. Blair. In addition, he had a number of internal meetings.

Taliban

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the search for *(a)* al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and *(b)* Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar; and if he will make a statement. [6790]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* For reasons which the hon. Member will understand, we do not comment on operational matters. As demonstrated by the recent arrest in Pakistan of Abu Faraj Al Libi, significant progress is being made against the senior leadership of al-Qaeda and senior Taliban allies.

United States

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the visitors who have been provided with accommodation and hospitality by his Department at official residences in Washington DC since 1 May. [5623]

Ian Pearson: We are unable to provide this information. To do so would incur disproportionate costs, and some of the information might have to be withheld on security or privacy grounds.

Vietnam

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the social and political situation in Vietnam. [6989]

Ian Pearson: Vietnam is a one-party state in which the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) decides all major policy issues. The country's current leadership was confirmed by the last major 9th Communist Party V Party Congress in 2001. Vietnam is expected to continue its successful doi moi (renovation) economic reform programme at the next CPV Party Congress in 2006. No significant changes to Vietnam's political system are expected. Vietnam's next major challenge is to join the World Trade Organisation, possibly late this year, which should further consolidate and spur its economic reforms.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Vietnam and have an increasingly open dialogue with the Vietnam Government on such issues. We are also working with Vietnam and its neighbours on their efforts to tackle terrorism, illegal immigration and organised crime in the region.

Other major challenges facing Vietnam include regional economic disparity, stubbornly high poverty in remote ethnic-minority regions and the influx of unregistered internal migrants to major cities. The Department for International Development's (DFID) support to Vietnam is one of the fastest growing UK aid programmes in the world, assisting Vietnam's social and economic development including the transition to a market-based economy.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is proposing to encourage the international community to take action to address the political situation in Zimbabwe. [6405]

Ian Pearson: We condemn the Zimbabwe authorities' forcible destruction of housing and small businesses, which has rendered hundreds of thousands of people homeless and without livelihoods.

We are working actively to end the violence and help the victims. Britain has protested strongly to the Zimbabwean authorities; is providing humanitarian assistance to those in greatest need; and is encouraging all members of the international community to follow suit.

With our stroag support, the EU has condemned Mugabe's actions and has agreed to ban from Europe and freeze the assets of another 25 of his henchmen. We are in regular contact with the US, Canada, Australia and others, who have joined us in speaking out. We are encouraging other African Governments to engage. And we are in close touch with the UN Secretary-General, who is despatching his own special envoy to Zimbabwe, Anna Tibaijuka, to report on the situation there.

We will continue to work with the international community for a return to democratic governance and the rule of law in Zimbabwe.

TREASURY

2011 Census

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is in relation to recognising Kashmiris as an ethnic group in the 2011 census. [7039]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Paul Goodman, dated 27 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what the policy is in relation to recognising Kashmiris as an ethnic group in the 2011 census. (7039)

The ethnicity question will be reviewed as part of the general preparations made by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the 2011 census when the questions and classifications for all topics will be reviewed before the selection of the final question set. ONS are planning a substantial programme of question testing and consultation with users of census data for the next few years and it is not possible to confirm what questions are to be included in the 2011 census until this is complete.

ONS began a programme of consultation on topics to be included in its 2011 census with a paper issued on the ONS website on 16 May 2005, The 2011 census: initial view on content for England and Wales, which invites responses by 5 August 2005. During the planning for the consultation process we recognised this issue as one of serious importance. The criteria for including questions in the 2011 census are set out in the consultation paper, which can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011census.asp

The consultation paper is the starting point for discussion with users about their data requirements for the 2011 census and is being supplemented by roadshows around the country during June and July. Following analysis of the written responses and comments made at the roadshows, a report will be published summarising the responses and setting out ONS' latest position.

Birth and Death Records (Digitisation)

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the digitisation of the UK's birth and death records will be carried out abroad. [6609]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Dr. John Pugh, dated 27 June 2005:

As Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how much of the digitisation of the UK's birth and death records will be carried out abroad. (6609)

There are three processes involved in the proposed digitisation of the UK's birth and death records.

The first process is to create digital images of the record from the existing microfilm or paper records. All image digitisation, whether microfilm or paper based will be done in the UK. No original registration records or paper quarterly copies will leave the UK.

The second process is to data capture key elements of the information on the image to create searchable index fields for each record. This second process will take place in India.

The third process involves the review of any individual records which are difficult to decipher and have failed the data capture process. At this stage all the records will be subjected to overall quality assurance, validation and acceptance testing. All of these processes will be carried out in a Centre of Excellence established at the General Register Office in Southport, Merseyside.

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [7180]

John Healey: The Department has recorded the following incidents.

Incident	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06 (to date)*
(a) Hacking	1	1	0	1	0
(b) Fraud	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Theft	2	24	10	4	1
(i) Illegal access from within	0	0	0	0	0
(ii) Illegal access from outside	1	1	0	1	0

Consultants

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7033]

John Healey: The Office of Government Commerce offers best practice advice to the public sector through its web-based product, the Successful Delivery Toolkit (www.ogc.gok.uk/sdtoolkit/). This guidance is aimed at public sector organisations and complies with Government policy and regulations for procurement but is not specifically tailored to the voluntary sector. The guidance encompasses:

purchasing consultancy services, covering the tendering process;

use of professional advisors, including consultants;

where it may be appropriate to use consultants, for example, in construction or specification writing;

examples of specific guides that are relevant to the procurement and supply of consultancy services:

i. delivering world-class consultancy services to the public sector-A statement of best practice;

ii. the Government Procurement Code of Good Practice for Customer and Suppliers.

Contracts (Value Audits)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what monitoring his Department undertakes on the value for public money of contracts that are entered into by its agencies. [6432]

John Healey: The professional Procurement Team of HM Revenue and Customs responsible for Treasury procurement, advise, oversee and in many cases procure the goods and services required by the Debt Management Office.

OGCbuying.solutions negotiate framework agreements and managed services agreements with private sector suppliers for specific goods and services.

These agreements deliver procurement savings by, among other things, aggregating demand and standardising customer requirements to take advantages of economies of scale; establishing long-term and partnership relationships with suppliers that remove supply side risk of the unknown and the associated cost on of that risk and by providing the public sector with ease of access to a broad range of requirements, on a one-stop-shop basis.

Customs and Excise Fraud (Staff)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received regarding concerns about fraud by staff working for HM Customs and Excise in the past 20 years. [6628]

Dawn Primarolo: Since October 2000, representations and allegations of fraud or impropriety against officers of HM Customs and Excise have been referred to the Internal Investigation Division (IID). The IID has responsibility for dealing with criminal and disciplinary investigations in partnership with other law enforcement staff and the police. Prior to October 2000 such matters were referred to either internal investigators, external investigators or senior Departmental managers.

Departmental Estate

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list *(a)* the office space in central London owned or rented on behalf of his Department, *(b)* the amount of space in each of the locations per full-time equivalent member of staff and *(c)* the occupancy rates of each; and if he will make a statement. [7131]

John Healey: HM Treasury occupies 1 Horse Guards road which has a net usable area of 22,215 square metres. This represents approximately 18 square metres per full-time equivalent member of staff. The building is permanently occupied during normal working hours.

Electrocution Fatalities

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were killed by accidental electrocution in each year since 1994. [6574]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Nick Gibb, dated 27 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people were killed by accidental electrocution in each year since 1994. (6574)

The most recently available information is for deaths in 2003. Figures for deaths due to accidents caused by exposure to electric current are shown in the table below for each year from 1994 to 2003.

Number of deaths from accidental exposure to electric current[1] in England and Wales, 1994 to 2003[2]

	Number of deaths
1994	37
1995	42
1996	36
1997	39
1998	37
1999	50
2000	41
2001	34
2002	24
2003	25

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code E925 for the years 1994 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes W85-W87 from 2001 onwards.

[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

HM Revenue and Customs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the fraud hotline to the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does not extend to Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [7146]

Dawn Primarolo: The fraud hotline (0800 788 887) can be accessed throughout the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland. I understand that calls are in fact received from Northern Ireland.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will request the resignation of the chairman of HM Revenue and Customs following the publication of the Adjudicator's Annual report. [7286]

Dawn Primarolo: No. As I said in my written statement of 26 May I have agreed with the chairman of HMRC six measures to improve the administration of tax credits. HMRC are now working to deliver these measures.

Hot Weather Fatalities

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many excess deaths were ascribed to hot weather in each year since 1980, broken down by age. [6565]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Steve Webb, dated 27 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many excess deaths were ascribed to hot weather in each year since 1980, broken down by age. (6565)

Death rates in England and Wales vary seasonally, being lower in summer than in the winter months. However, analyses of urban populations indicates that all-cause mortality rises during heatwaves. In most summers, temperatures do not get high enough to raise mortality from the usual seasonal low. The main exceptions in recent years were 1995 and 2003. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has carried out special analysis into excess deaths during the 1995 and 2003 heatwaves. The analysis of the 1995 heatwave, published in the "Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health" in February 1998, found that there were an estimated 619 extra deaths in England and Wales between 30 July and 3 August compared to the expected number of deaths based on the 31-day moving average for that period. The analysis found that excess deaths were apparent in all age-groups. The analysis of the 2003 heatwave, published in "Health Statistics Quarterly 25" in February 2005, found that there were 2,091 excess deaths in England between 4 and 13 August compared to the average for the same period in the previous five years. The analysis found that the elderly (aged 75 and over) were most affected by the heatwave.

Indirect Tax Losses

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the illicit market share for *(a)* cigarettes, *(b)* spirits and *(c)* oils in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [7102]

John Healey: Estimates of the illicit market share for the latest four years for which data are available for spirits, cigarettes and oils are given, respectively, in tables 3.3, 3.9 and 3.14 of the "Measuring and Tackling Indirect Tax Losses" document published by HM Customs and Excise alongside the pre-Budget report in December 2004. This is available from the House of Commons Library.

Earlier years estimates for cigarettes and oils can be found in chapter 4 of the "Measuring and Tackling Indirect Tax Losses" document published in December 2003. There are no comparable estimates for spirits prior to 1999–2000 due to improvements in data and methodology.

Methadone Deaths

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in the UK were wholly or partly attributed to methadone in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [6964]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Fabian Hamilton, dated 27 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths in the UK were wholly or partly attributed to methadone in the last 12 months for which figures are available. (6964).

Available figures relate to the number of deaths from drug-related poisoning where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate. The most recently available information for all the countries of the United Kingdom is for deaths in 2003. It is not possible to identify from death certificates which substance was the primary cause when more than one was involved. Figures related to the number of deaths where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or with other substances, are shown in the table below.

Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning[1] where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, United Kingdom, 2003[2]

	Number of deaths
Methadone:	
Mentioned alone[3]	83
Total mentions	264

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14.
[2] Data are for deaths occurring in the calendar year for England and Wales, and for deaths registered in the calendar year for Scotland and Northern Ireland.
[3] Methadone is the only drug mentioned on the death certificate.

Public Conveniences

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public conveniences were recorded on the commercial and industry property database of the Valuation Office Agency in each London borough in each year since 2000. [7247]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of public conveniences shown in the rating list, for each London borough, for each year since 2000, is shown in the table.

Billing authority name	*April 2000*	*March 2001*	*March 2002*	*March 2003*	*March 2004*	*March 2005*	*April 2005*
City of London	25	25	26	25	25	25	25
Barking and Dagenham	15	15	14	17	17	17	17
Barnet	13	14	12	8	7	6	6
Bexley	17	16	15	10	10	10	10
Brent	9	9	9	8	6	4	4
Bromley	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Camden	17	16	15	15	15	14	14
Croydon	19	19	19	15	15	14	14
Ealing	10	10	10	10	9	10	10
Enfield	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Greenwich	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Hackney	14	14	12	11	2	2	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	14	14	14	14	14	14
Haringey	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Harrow	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Havering	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Hillingdon	17	17	18	17	7	8	8
Hounslow	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Billing authority name	April 2000	March 2001	March 2002	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005	April 2005
Islington	23	8	7	9	8	8	8
Kensington and Chelsea	9	9	9	9	8	8	8
Kingston upon Thames	9	9	9	9	8	8	8
Lambeth	16	15	15	15	16	16	16
Lewisham	17	16	16	14	13	13	13
Merton	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Newham	8	6	5	5	5	5	5
Redbridge	24	23	22	22	21	21	21
Richmond upon Thames	10	11	11	11	11	10	10
Southwark	17	17	18	14	14	14	14
Sutton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tower Hamlets	22	20	18	18	18	18	18
Waltham Forest	16	16	17	17	14	14	14
Wandsworth	21	20	20	20	19	19	19
Westminster	46	46	46	41	40	40	41

Public Procurement Directive

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 683–84W, on the public procurement Directive, what the Government's definition is of a competent authority; and which authorities have been identified as suitable for collating information on convictions in relation to this directive. [6427]

John Healey: The EU public procurement Directive (2004/18/EC) does not provide a definition of competent authority in relation to Article 45. It is left for member states to designate the authorities competent to carry out the role of providing information on the personal situation of the candidates or tenderers concerned. The Office of Government Commerce is in discussion with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) on this aspect of Article 45.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 683–84W, on the Public Procurement Directive, if he will list those who responded to the consultation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses which referred to Article 45 of EU Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC. [6428]

John Healey: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) received 255 responses from a wide range of organisations following the 2004 consultation exercise on the new Public Procurement Directive (2004/18/EC). These included Government Departments, local authorities, law firms, suppliers, trade unions and other interested parties. A summary of these responses is available on the OGC website: http://www.ogc.gov.uk/index.asp?docid=1002407, and the list of respondents, excluding those who requested confidentiality, is included in alphabetical order as follows:

Allen and Overy
Association of British Healthcare Industries
(Employee of) Bristol City Council
British Telecom
Cap Gemini
Commission for Racial Equality
Criminal Justice Information Technology
Construction Employers Federation
Construction Federation
Customs and Excise
Defence Procurement Agency
(Employee of) Denton Wilde Sapte
Department for Constitutional Affairs
Department for International Development
Department for Trade and Industry
Department for Transport
Department for Works and Pensions
Disability Rights Commission
Equal Opportunities Commission
Ex Remploy Director
Furniture Industry Strategy Group
GMP
HM Treasury
Home Office
IDeA
Inland Revenue
Isle of Wight Sheltered Workshop
ISTC—the Community Union
Loughborough University
Millstream Associates Ltd
Nabarro Nathanson
National Association of Supported Employment
National Audit Office
National Housing Federation
NHS PASA
Northern Ireland
ODPM
OGC
OGC Buying Solutions
Peacocks Medical Group
Remploy
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Royal National Institute for the Blind
Small Business Service
Solicitors in Local Government
Treasury Solicitors
TUC
Ulster Supported Employment Ltd
Unison
Warwickshire City Council
Wates
Welsh Purchasing Consortium

As part of this consultation, OGC asked recipients to consider several key areas. These included Article 45, which concerns the mandatory exclusion of suppliers convicted of certain offences from public contracts. Copies of the consultation responses that specifically mentioned Article 45 have been placed in the Library. Copies of all other responses will be placed in the Library shortly.

In some cases there was more than one response from organisations. In particular, there were many responses from Remploy and its employees.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the record of discussions and correspondence between the Office of Government Commerce and the Criminal Records Bureau about implementation of Article 45 of the EU Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC. [6450]

John Healey: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is considering with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) how best to implement Article 45, a I said in my written answer to the hon. Gentleman on 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 682–83WA. It would not be appropriate to make available the record of discussions and correspondence between OGC and CRB. Doing so would inhibit the formulation and development of Government policy, a process which is currently on-going.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Office of Government Commerce has had further discussions with the private and public sectors about Article 45 of the new EU public procurement Directive 2004/18/EC since the consultation exercise was undertaken in 2004. [6469]

John Healey: Since the 2004 consultation exercise, the implementation of the new EU public procurement Directive has been, and will continue to be, discussed in numerous seminars, conferences and meetings involving the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). These occasions are normally requested and arranged by other interested parties, including other Government departments, the devolved Administrations, local authorities and the wider public sector, the legal community, suppliers and NGOs, and are separate from OGC's formal consultation process. Article 45 often features in such discussions, along with all other main provisions of the new Directive. On 20 June 2005 OGC began a further 12-week consultation on the draft Regulations implementing the Directive, including Article 45. OGC is in discussion with the Criminal Records Bureau on the practical implementation of this Article.

Regional Gross Domestic Product

David Maclean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make a statement on Office for National Statistics regional gross domestic product statistics; and what the differences are between the methods used by the Office for National Statistics to calculate regional gross domestic product statistics and the methods used in other European Union countries; [6116]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the differences between the methods used by the Office for National Statistics to calculate regional gross domestic product statistics and the methods used in other European Union countries on the allocation of European regional aid funds to disadvantaged areas of the United Kingdom. [6126]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Maclean, dated 27 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about Office for National Statistics (ONS) regional gross domestic product statistics and the differences between the methods used by ONS to produce these and the methods used in other European Union countries. (6116 & 6126)

ONS published gross value added (GVA) NUTS 1 to 2003, and NUTS 2 and 3 to 2002, in December 2004. A guide to ONS methods for calculating regional GDP is available on the ONS website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/UK_Regional_GDP_methodological_guide.pdf.

Additional resources and a move into National Accounts Group have contributed to significant improvement to the quality assurance processes of regional economic statistics since the withdrawal of estimates in December 2002. Emphasis is on ensuring the quality of data inputs and there is a no risk strategy in place to generate confidence in regional economic statistics outputs.

ONS have not carried out a comparison between methodologies used to calculate regional gross domestic product statistics in European Countries. As a result, an assessment on the allocation of European regional aid funds to disadvantaged areas in the United Kingdom has not been produced.

David Maclean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the treatment of *(a)* extra-regio gross domestic product and *(b)* financial and investment services in Eurostat statistics for regional gross domestic product do not disadvantage UK regions with regard to the allocation of European regional aid funds. [6125]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. David Maclean, dated 27 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on what steps are being taken to ensure that the treatment of *(a)* extra-regio gross domestic product and *(b)* financial and investment services in Eurostat statistics do not disadvantage UK regions with regard to the allocation of European regional aid funds. (6125)

My responsibility is to ensure that proper statistical processes are followed, and that the statistics are the best that can be devised. To this end I have written to the Director General of Eurostat (Mr Hanreich) twice this year to express my concern at the approach adopted in the calculation of Regional GDP per capita. I have questioned the treatment of both Extra-Regio and FISIM (Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured).

I last wrote to Mr Hanreich on 3 June and have yet to receive a reply.

Scottish Currency

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he provides to businesses in England on the legality of Scottish currency. [7257]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Treasury provides no guidance to businesses in England about the legality of Scottish banknotes.

Strychnine Hydrochloride

David Maclean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it will be possible to import strychnine hydrochloride into the UK for use in the destruction of moles after 1 September 2006. [6275]

Jim Knight: I have to been asked to reply.

For strychnine hydrochloride to be used in the UK to control moles it first requires a specific authorisation for that purpose under either the Plant Protection Products Directive (91/414/EEC) or the Biocidal Products Directive (98/8/EC). The requirement for a specific authorisation for use applies irrespective of the origin of the strychnine hydrochloride.

Sustainability

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department is seeking to change the accepted definition of sustainability to stress the economic arm above the environmental dimension. [7302]

John Healey: The Treasury is not seeking to change the accepted definition of sustainable development.

The June European Council reiterated its attachment to sustainable development as a key principle governing all the Union's policies and activities. Within this context, and as agreed at spring European Council, it is vital that the Lisbon strategy be relaunched without delay and with priorities refocused on growth and employment.

Tax Credits

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement by the Paymaster General of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14, on tax credit overpayments; (1) if he will take steps to improve the operation of the tax credit offices; [7413]

(2) if he will *(a)* undertake an investigation into the workings of the tax credits offices and *(b)* appoint an official with overall responsibility for tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [7414]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 22–23WS and the oral statement I made to the House on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 801–14.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been in receipt of an incorrect level of tax credit in Basingstoke; how many of these could not reasonably have been expected to know that a mistake had been made; and if he will make a statement. [7325]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of tax credit awards for families living in Basingstoke that have been affected by official error are not available.

Underage Pregnancy and Abortion

Mr. Hancock: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls in Portsmouth aged under 17 years *(a)* gave birth and *(b)* had abortions, in each of the last five years, broken down by age group. [6332]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Mike Hancock, dated 27 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary asking how many girls in Portsmouth aged under 17 years *(a)* gave birth and *(b)* had abortions in each of the last five years. (6332)

The maternity data given in the Table 1, attached below, for each of the years between 1999 and 2004 are for girls who gave birth aged under 17, and who were resident in Portsmouth Unitary Authority at the time of the event. Abortions figures are only available for the larger Health Authority area for 1999–2001 prevailing at the time and only for under 18 for Portsmouth UA in 2002. These figures, along with their equivalents for maternities are shown in Table 2.

Due to the possibility of individuals being identified, a further breakdown by age cannot be provided.

Table 1: Maternities for under 17 year olds, Portsmouth unitary authority 1999–2004

	Number of maternities
1999	22
2000	11
2001	15
2002	25
2003	13
2004	19

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Maternities and abortions for under 17 year olds for health authorities containing Portsmouth UA 1999–2001, Maternities and abortions for under 18 year olds for Portsmouth UA 2002–04

	Number of maternities	*Number of abortions*
(a) Under 17		
1999[1]	53	74
2000[1]	42	88
2001[2]	62	100
(b) Under 18		
2002[3]	56	76
2003[3]	47	n/a
2004[3]	46	n/a

n/a = Not available.
[1] Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority
[2] Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and South East Hampshire Health Authority
[3] Portsmouth UA
Sources:
Maternities Office for National Statistics
Abortions Department of Health

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Affordable Housing

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many affordable housing units built or procured through *(a)* the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme and *(b)* the Challenge Fund were (i) mixed funded social rented housing, (ii) temporary social rented housing, (iii) Homebuy general market purchase, (iv) Homebuy general new build, (v) mixed funded low cost home ownership for sale, (vi) miscellaneous works to RSL stock, (vii) reimprovements to rented RSL stock, (viii) works only rehabilitation of rented RSL stock, (ix) works only rehabilitation of RSL stock for sale, (x) intermediate rent for key workers, (xi) Homebuy market purchase for key workers, (xii) Homebuy new build for key workers, (xiii) mixed funded sale for key workers and (xiv) starter home initiative in the South East Region in each year since 1997–98; and how much was spent on each category in each year. [5384]

Yvette Cooper: The following tables show the number of homes built or acquired and funding provided through the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme (ADP), Challenge Fund and the Starter Home Initiative in the South East region for the categories (i) to (xiv) for each year since 1997–98.

Funding and completions are not directly comparable, as funding will relate to projects running, not necessarily units completed, in any one year.

Numbers of homes built or acquired in the South East region

		1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
ADP									
(i)	Mixed funded rent	3,540	3,231	2,304	2,145	2,450	2,488	2,236	1,942
(ii)	Temporary social housing	259	268	162	106	130	46	46	44
(iii)	Homebuy Market Purchase	—	—	133	187	314	356	396	222
(iv)	Homebuy New Build	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
(v)	Mixed funded sale	359	578	202	430	305	467	647	807
(vi)	Miscellaneous works	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(vii)	Re-improvements rent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(viii)	Works Only rehabilitation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(ix)	Re-improvements sale	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(x)	Intermediate rent for key workers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	871
(xi)	Homebuy Market Purchase for key workers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,319
(xii)	Homebuy New Build for key workers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17
(xiii)	Mixed funded sale for key workers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	355
Challenge Fund									
(i)	Mixed funded rent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	323	710
(iii)	Homebuy Market Purchase	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	111
(v)	Mixed funded sale	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	273	520
	Intermediate Rent	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	62	137
(xiv)	Starter Home Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	68	893	2,368	188

Miscellaneous works, re-improvements to rented RSL stock, works only rehabilitation of rented RSL stock and works only rehabilitation of RSL stock for sale are not recorded as completed dwellings as they may have previously received funding and would therefore be double counted.

The information in the table does not include all programmes that the ADP is used for and therefore does not represent the total funding for the South East region. Other categories with funding during the period covered by the table are Right to Acquire, Voluntary Purchase Grant, Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership, and Temporary Intermediate and Market Rent Housing.

Expenditure in the South East region through ADP, Challenge Fund and Starter Home Initiative for the listed categories

£ million

		1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
ADP									
(i)	Mixed funded rent	54.37	43.65	54.73	61.92	70.85	85.22	149.25	145.11
(ii)	Temporary social housing	2.84	2.61	2.20	1.68	1.64	0.98	1.15	0.48
(iii)	Homebuy Market Purchase	0.00	0.00	2.93	4.45	9.06	11.78	14.11	9.20
(iv)	Homebuy New Build	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32
(v)	Mixed funded sale	2.60	2.55	6.20	5.16	6.53	11.57	20.08	28.27
(vi)	Miscellaneous works	6.26	3.10	1.53	1.66	2.25	1.52	2.62	2.33
(vii)	Re-improvements rent	0.72	0.91	1.03	1.31	1.07	0.82	0.97	1.42
(viii)	Works Only rehabilitation	0.42	0.16	0.91	0.28	1.61	0.98	1.63	1.53
(ix)	Re-improvements sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.17
(x)	Intermediate rent for key workers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15.51
(xi)	Homebuy Market Purchase for key workers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47.30
(xii)	Homebuy New Build for key workers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.76
(xiii)	Mixed funded sale for key workers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24.35

Expenditure in the South East region through ADP, Challenge Fund and Starter Home Initiative for the listed categories

£ million

		1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Challenge Fund									
(i)	Mixed funded rent	0	0	0	0	0	0	64.59	14.55
(iii)	Homebuy Market Purchase	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.86	0.45
(v)	Mixed funded sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	36.76	2.98
	Intermediate Rent	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.30	0.05
(xiv)	Starter Home Initiative	0	0	0	0	1.65	20.65	58.21	4.64

Source:
Housing Corporation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much the Government plan to allocate for the provision of affordable housing in Devon in each of the next three years; [7677]

(2) how much of the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme he expects to be allocated to provide affordable housing in the *(a)* South Hams, *(b)* Torbay and *(c)* Teignbridge districts in the next three years. [7681]

Yvette Cooper: The allocations made for provision of affordable housing in Devon in 2004–05 and 2005–06 total £46.0 million; £3.1 million, £6.8 million and £3.0 million of this is for housing in South Hams, Torbay and Teignbridge, respectively.

Decisions on the overall level of funding for affordable housing in the South West region in 2006–07 and 2007–08 will be taken over the summer in the light of advice from the South West Regional Housing Body. The allocation of these funds across the region, which will be announced early next year, will reflect advice from the board and the quality and the value for money of bids to the Housing Corporation.

Barker Report

Lynne Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will publish the results of the consultation on the Barker Report. [5921]

Yvette Cooper: To date the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has consulted on one aspect of the Barker report—her recommendation that Regional Housing Boards and Regional Planning Bodies be merged, and that those merged bodies be supported by strong, independent advice.

We have already announced the establishment of an independent advice unit and that merger will go ahead. We are however still considering a number of points of detail in relation to both issues and will be making further announcements soon.

Council Tax

Jim Cousins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes are proposed for the student exemption from council tax; and under what circumstances key worker accommodation *(a)* leased by universities and *(b)* rented by students and others will be exempt from council tax. [6314]

Mr. Woolas: No changes are proposed to the student exemption from council tax. Dwellings which are occupied entirely by students are exempt from council tax. Students sharing with non-students are disregarded for the purposes of calculating the household's bill. Halls of residence, as defined in the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order (SI 1992/558), are exempt from council tax provided the accommodation is provided predominantly for students.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of his Office's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6252]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Non-Departmental Public Bodies and Agencies are implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate posts out of London headquarters by 2010. The target of relocating 240 posts was agreed in SR04.

103 posts have already been relocated to the areas set out as follows:

Location	*Number of Posts Moved*
GO North East	4
GO North West	18
GO Yorkshire and Humberside	8
GO West Midlands	5
GO East Midlands	18
GO East	18
GO South East	4
GO South West	7
GO London	8
Hastings	2
Hemel Hempstead	4
Glossop	7
Total number of posts moved	103

With this progress so far, we are confident that we can meet the target of 240 by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some posts to relatively deprived areas in the South East.

Disabled Facilities Grants

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what plans the Government have to reform the Disabled Facilities Grant for *(a)* disabled children and *(b)* disabled adults; [4840]

(2) when he plans to publish the conclusions of the review of the Disabled Facilities Grant; what research has been commissioned as part of the review; and whether the research will be made public. [4841]

Yvette Cooper: The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is currently the subject of a wide ranging interdepartmental review. As part of this, a team from Bristol University are looking at the operation of the DFG system including the means test. Any proposals for change, as well as research and evidence will be published in due course.

Fire Emergency Calls

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* malicious false alarm fire emergency calls have been received in (i) inner and (ii) Greater London in each year since 1999. [6362]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information provided by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) showing the number of false fire alarms attended by the London Fire Brigade since 1999 is set out in the following table. Genuine false alarms are those generated by automatic equipment and by people believing that there was a fire (good intent).

Types of fire false alarm attended by London Fire Brigade

	1999–2000			2000–01		
Borough	*Automatic fire alarm*	*Good intent*	*Malicious*	*Automatic fire alarm*	*Good intent*	*Malicious*
Inner London	27,467	7,063	6,870	29,333	7,182	6,255
Camden	3,446	621	414	3,682	565	331
City of London	936	89	27	1,014	100	26
Hackney	1,524	633	759	1,645	610	619
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,446	343	229	1,535	340	253
Haringey	1,256	441	532	1,297	429	455
Islington	1,606	527	515	1,726	504	512
Kensington and Chelsea	2,169	334	136	2,145	374	189
Lambeth	1,618	630	496	1,662	641	469
Lewisham	1,400	521	631	1,486	449	403
Newham	1,054	557	915	1,029	607	914
Southwark	1,854	602	539	1,902	694	596
Tower Hamlets	2,205	617	776	2,332	703	747
Wandsworth	1,739	401	332	1,725	421	266
Westminster	5,214	747	569	6,153	745	475
Outer London	19,328	6,734	5,517	19,321	6,651	5,015
Barking and Dagenham	319	360	449	298	427	368
Barnet	1,431	496	261	1,306	520	293
Bexley	676	323	275	695	262	230
Brent	1,263	411	429	1,312	380	482
Bromley	903	384	301	905	441	256
Croydon	1,065	446	386	1,138	434	352
Ealing	1,490	466	380	1,420	444	347
Enfield	1,059	448	387	1,302	389	337
Greenwich	697	528	550	792	531	482
Harrow	715	197	132	791	219	128
Havering	739	286	156	536	284	163
Hillingdon	2,875	485	369	2,788	481	242
Hounslow	1,063	427	327	994	408	311
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,029	176	148	1,151	162	92
Merton	667	257	168	662	251	146
Redbridge	799	305	230	741	316	209
Richmond-upon-Thames	934	220	66	894	202	82
Sutton	801	170	112	756	155	109
Waltham Forest	803	349	391	840	345	386
Borough not known	1,033	223	100	537	109	100
Total	47,828	14,020	12,487	49,191	13,942	11,370

	2001–02			2002–03		
Borough	*Automatic fire alarm*	*Good intent*	*Malicious*	*Automatic fire alarm*	*Good intent*	*Malicious*
Inner London	30,281	7,800	6,577	29,505	7,559	5,615
Camden	4,039	669	431	3,716	616	311
City of London	1,097	110	33	992	99	19
Hackney	1,669	708	613	1,714	663	488
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,614	324	195	1,623	364	176
Haringey	1,395	468	526	1,431	481	584
Islington	1,585	563	404	1,717	494	392
Kensington and Chelsea	2,246	381	225	2,156	341	155
Lambeth	1,827	647	491	1,594	614	431
Lewisham	1,649	505	470	1,353	524	314
Newham	1,029	691	939	1,125	642	805
Southwark	1,841	763	603	1,819	733	507
Tower Hamlets	2,238	796	842	2,174	793	773
Wandsworth	1,729	428	325	1,794	410	241
Westminster	6,323	747	480	6,297	785	419

Borough	2001–02 Automatic fire alarm	2001–02 Good intent	2001–02 Malicious	2002–03 Automatic fire alarm	2002–03 Good intent	2002–03 Malicious
Outer London	20,454	7,494	5,594	19,644	6,976	4,378
Barking and Dagenham	303	509	397	420	428	325
Barnet	1,393	465	310	1,327	452	246
Bexley	755	344	197	690	319	170
Brent	1,273	403	379	1,191	407	376
Bromley	1,006	436	252	901	387	182
Croydon	1,134	530	439	1,136	476	269
Ealing	1,402	442	445	1,374	427	266
Enfield	1,421	505	488	1,285	475	461
Greenwich	1,023	626	587	1,033	537	404
Harrow	1,042	243	173	1,061	235	138
Havering	552	363	136	554	330	130
Hillingdon	2,849	569	379	2,544	557	303
Hounslow	1,001	481	317	972	426	229
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,105	175	108	1,109	152	77
Merton	806	305	163	693	259	142
Redbridge	800	364	245	930	339	223
Richmond-upon-Thames	928	185	74	873	208	53
Sutton	785	214	139	734	209	120
Waltham Forest	876	335	366	817	353	264
Borough not known	90	39	33	22	19	2
Total	50,825	15,333	12,204	49,171	14,554	9,995

Borough	2003–04 Automatic fire alarm	2003–04 Good intent	2003–04 Malicious
Inner London	30,354	7,288	5,339
Camden	3,823	519	342
City of London	1,136	122	30
Hackney	1,692	634	428
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,820	333	152
Haringey	1,469	480	420
Islington	1,829	519	416
Kensington and Chelsea	2,189	389	161
Lambeth	1,718	578	403
Lewisham	1,258	512	654
Newham	1,037	633	636
Southwark	1,854	658	480
Tower Hamlets	2,295	760	608
Wandsworth	1,815	426	254
Westminster	6,419	725	355
Outer London	20,442	8,717	4,519
Barking and Dagenham	397	525	351
Barnet	1,377	579	195
Bexley	805	413	169
Brent	1,319	447	402
Bromley	929	511	232
Croydon	1,192	547	284
Ealing	1,401	527	332
Enfield	1,319	599	405
Greenwich	953	675	418
Harrow	1,192	287	223
Havering	599	441	156
Hillingdon	2,502	721	267
Hounslow	1,021	542	182
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,185	198	67
Merton	713	296	137
Redbridge	991	427	192
Richmond-upon-Thames	891	266	67
Sutton	793	267	131
Waltham Forest	863	449	309
Borough not known	40	30	6
Total	50,836	16,035	9,864

Note:
2002–03 excludes 15 strike days.
Source:
LFEPA

Fire Service

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of Fire and Rescue Service staff have received training on using incident response units at the Fire Service College. [2440]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During 2004 approximately 320 fire and rescue service personnel were trained at the Fire Service College on Incident Response Units (IRUs). This enabled cascade training to be undertaken in individual fire and rescue authorities so that now, approximately every firefighter (50,000) has received basic training on mass decontamination and the IRUs.

In 2005, the Fire Service College is providing 180 fire and rescue service personnel with mass decontamination instructor training covering use of the IRUs. To date, 120 personnel have attended the course.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Love: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will publish the regulatory impact assessment on his proposed HIP energy reports; [6303]

(2) whether the regulatory impact assessment on the proposed home information pack energy reports followed guidelines on *(a)* air quality and *(b)* emissions of air pollutants; and if he will make a statement. [5252]

Yvette Cooper: The energy report in the home information pack will implement, for marketed sales, a requirement of the EU directive 2002/91/EC (Energy Performance of Buildings) which was negotiated by Government in 2001–02. An initial RIA on the directive was carried out and the assessment concluded that as well as improving awareness of energy efficiency the directive would help reduce carbon emissions. A separate RIA on the energy report has not been carried out. A full RIA for the directive will be produced before regulations for its implementation are laid in Parliament.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5121]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer my hon. friend to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

House Prices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate the *(a)* Government and *(b)* Valuation Office Agency has made of the yearly change to average (i) house prices and (ii) capital values of residential property from material improvements to residential properties in each of the last five years. [5574]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's monthly house price index shows that house prices for the United Kingdom as a whole rose by 6.9 per cent. in the year to April 2005. This information is published on our website on a monthly basis. The latest monthly index was published 13 June at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0109.

The ODPM does not make estimates of the yearly change to average capital values of residential property from material improvements.

The Valuation Office Agency publishes a Property Market Report. Their latest report is available on their website at: http://www. voa.gov. uk/publications/property_market_report/pmr-jan-2005/index.htm.

The Valuation Office Agency has not made an estimate of the yearly change to average capital values of residential property from material improvements.

House Sales Chains

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward a framework for legal redress to purchasers in house sales chains who suffer losses due to individuals who withdraw their pledge to sell at a late stage. [5891]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Although an agreement to sell a house in England and Wales is usually made "subject to contract" and is unenforceable until contracts are exchanged, the parties may, at the outset, enter into an enforceable contract for the payment of compensation if one of them pulls out.

In its review of the home buying and selling process in 1998, the Government concluded that it would not be appropriate to make such compensation agreements compulsory, given the wide variety of circumstances that could cause a sale to fail and the difficulty of apportioning blame.

The Government have, instead, enacted legislation that is expected, when fully implemented, to help reduce the incidence of failed transactions and to make the process more transparent.

The provision, by sellers, of home information packs should ensure that offers are made on an informed basis and buyers are not taken unawares by problems with the property at a late stage in the transaction. This should reduce the length of the period between agreeing terms and exchange of contracts, when most of the problems occur. The Government intend to introduce compulsory Home Information Packs from 2007.

The introduction of electronic conveyancing, also from 2007, will include a "chain matrix" revealing the stage reached by each transaction to all the other participants in the chain. This information should enable those involved in the chain to make realistic assessments of the situation and to resolve delays more quickly.

Housing

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the house-building required on Canvey Island to meet his longer term building targets. [6891]

Yvette Cooper: There is no such estimate for Canvey Island, which is within Castle Point district. The draft East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which was produced by the East of England regional assembly rather than the Government, proposes 4,000 extra homes in this district as a whole between 2001 and 2021. The soundness of the assembly's proposals will be tested at an "Examination in Public" starting this autumn. The final version of the strategy, including housing figures, will take account of the recommendations of the independent panel which will hold the examination.

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of brownfield development in Kenilworth is development of land previously used for dwellings or their gardens. [6927]

Yvette Cooper: The information available is for the area of Warwick district council. From land use change statistics, over the period 1997 to 2003 an average of two hectares a year have been developed on land previously used for dwellings or gardens, representing 10 per cent. of all development on previously-developed land.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many first-time buyers in Oxfordshire he expects to benefit from the First Time Buyers Initiative. [5802]

Yvette Cooper: It is too early to say how many first time buyers in Oxfordshire will be helped through the First Time Buyers Initiative. Our target for the initiative is to provide 15,000 affordable homes across England over the next five years to 2010. This target can be found in our Five Year Strategy, "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All", published by us in January 2005 (a copy of which is available in the Library of the House). English Partnerships is now developing a delivery plan for the First Time Buyers Initiative.

Our consultation document "HomeBuy: Expanding the opportunity to own" launched in April 2005 set out various proposals for simplifying, making fairer and expanding our low cost home ownership programme. The consultation process closes on 24 June, and the

results will be fed into English Partnerships' delivery plan. English Partnerships will be working closely with stakeholders such as the Regional Housing Boards, local planning authorities and others to assess local demands and accommodate them where possible taking account of regional strategies and development plans. Regional Housing Boards will advise on groups to be given priority, reflecting the needs of the region.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many key workers in Oxfordshire he expects to benefit from *(a)* Social Home Buy, *(b)* New Build Home Buy and *(c)* Open Market Home Buy. [5803]

Yvette Cooper: It is not currently possible to estimate how many key workers in Oxfordshire will benefit from the Government's proposals for low cost home ownership. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently consulting on proposals and will then need to take decisions based both on the representations we receive and in the light of Regional Housing Board recommendations as to how and where of the South East Region allocation of £805.161 million funding for housing for the two year 2006–08 should be invested.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much public sector land the Government has released for housing in Oxfordshire in the last five years; and how much further such land he plans to release. [5804]

Yvette Cooper: It is the responsibility of local planning authorities to identify and release land for housing as part of the planning process.

The Government have implemented a number of initiatives to assist with land supply in support of the Sustainable Communities Plan.

A register of surplus public sector land held by central Government bodies has been established. English Partnerships is currently reviewing the sites on the register to identify those which could have the potential for housing development. As at March 2005 there were 713 sites on the register. Sites are continually being added as they are identified as surplus by landowners and removed once expressions of interests are received after a site has been marketed. A list of the sites on the register, as at March 2005, can be found on the English Partnerships website at: http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/images/16EE954C904340DDAB44702EF5D2ADE6.pdf.

English Partnerships will publish a quarterly update of sites on the register.

English Partnerships has also recently taken ownership of the first 67 sites from a portfolio of 96 surplus NHS sites. The sites are currently being assessed for their development potential and will then be taken forward in consultation with the relevant local planning authorities. English Partnerships and the Defence Estates have also signed a joint working agreement on surplus land. This sets out how the agencies will work together with the objective of maximising the potential of surplus defence sites to help deliver the "Sustainable Communities Plan".

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and English Partnerships also maintain the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land (NLUD-PDL). This covers vacant and derelict land and also land in use with potential for development. It covers land in both public and private ownership. Information on the sites is available from the NLUD website www.nlud.org.uk.

In addition English Partnerships is developing the National Brownfield Strategy which will provide a coherent vision for the future development of brownfield land to underpin national, regional and local development aspirations. The strategy will help our targets for building new homes on brownfield land.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many key workers in Oxfordshire have benefited from the Starter Home Initiative, broken down by district council area. [5805]

Yvette Cooper: 327 key workers in Oxfordshire were helped to purchase homes under the Starter Home Initiative. The following table breaks down the figure by district council and by key worker group.

	Number of key workers assisted			
Local authority	*Nurses/ health workers*	*Teachers*	*Police*	*Others*
Cherwell	6	11	14	6
Oxford	102	43	27	9
South Oxfordshire	15	46	14	4
Vale of White Horse	1	10	5	0
West Oxfordshire	4	7	3	0
Total	128	117	63	19

Note:
Other key workers helped under the Starter Home Initiative included social workers, fire fighters, occupational therapists, prison and probation service staff.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much of the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme he expects to be committed to help provide affordable housing in the Cherwell district over the next three years; [5806]

(2) how much the Government intends to commit to the provision of affordable housing in Oxfordshire in each of the next three years. [5810]

Yvette Cooper: The allocations made for provision of affordable housing in Oxfordshire in 2004–05 and 2005–06 total £49.1 million; £6.3 million of this is for housing in Cherwell.

Decisions on the overall level of funding for affordable housing in the South East region in 2006–07 and 2007–08 will be taken over the summer in the light of advice from the South East Regional Housing Board. The allocation of these funds across the region, which will be announced early next year, will reflect advice from the Board and the quality and the value for money of bids to the Housing Corporation.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much the Housing Corporation committed towards the provision of affordable housing for each district area in Oxfordshire in each of the last five years; [5807]

(2) how much Social Housing Grant has been committed in Oxfordshire in each of the last five years; and what proportion of that money was in support of section 106 schemes in each year. [5808]

Yvette Cooper: Expenditure on affordable housing in Oxfordshire provided through the Housing Corporation broken down by district, in the last five years, is detailed in the following table. The programmes included in the table are the Approved Development Programme (ADP), the Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) and Transitional LASHG, the Safer Communities Supported Housing Fund (SCSHF), and the Starter Home Initiative (SHI).

The amount supporting s106 is only available for 2004–05. The total proportion for Oxfordshire is 19.6 per cent.

£ million

	ADP	*LASHG*	*SCSHF*	*SHI*	*Total*
2000–01					
Cherwell	1.103	1.608	0.000	0.000	2.711
Oxford	2.567	0.218	0.000	0.000	2.785
South Oxfordshire	0.711	5.494	0.000	0.000	6.205
Vale of the White Horse	0.080	4.808	0.000	0.000	4.888
West Oxfordshire	0.402	0.925	0.000	0.000	1.327
Oxfordshire Total	4.863	13.053	0.000	0.000	17.916
2001–02					
Cherwell	1.690	1.161	0.216	0.000	3.067
Oxford	1.584	1.248	0.000	0.270	3.102
South Oxfordshire	1.241	4.392	0.000	0.000	5.633
Vale of the White Horse	0.414	9.734	0.000	0.000	10.148
West Oxfordshire	1.687	3.377	0.000	0.000	5.064
Oxfordshire Total	6.616	19.912	0.216	0.270	27.014
2002–03					
Cherwell	2.280	0.583	0.093	0.328	3.284
Oxford	1.091	0.673	0.000	1.267	3.031
South Oxfordshire	1.341	4.714	0.000	0.580	6.635
Vale of the White Horse	0.810	5.878	0.000	0.173	6.861
West Oxfordshire	0.748	6.436	0.224	0.067	7.475
Oxfordshire Total	6.270	18.284	0.317	2.415	27.286
2003–04					
Cherwell	2.914	0.593	0.447	0.435	4.389
Oxford	17.741	0.000	0.000	3.014	20.756
South Oxfordshire	1.332	1.244	0.000	1.428	4.004
Vale of the White Horse	2.124	4.346	0.000	0.358	6.828
West Oxfordshire	2.934	4.160	0.013	0.362	7.469
Oxfordshire Total	27.045	10.343	0.460	5.597	43.446
2004–05					
Cherwell	2.736	0.259	0.201	0.113	3.309
Oxford	18.602	0.000	0.000	0.047	18.649
South Oxfordshire	3.655	0.288	0.000	0.152	4.095
Vale of the White Horse	2.342	0.999	0.000	0.000	3.341
West Oxfordshire	5.144	0.366	0.000	0.067	5.577
Oxfordshire Total	32.479	1.912	0.201	0.379	34.971

Note:
All data analysed by sponsoring local authority
Source:
Housing Corporation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what advice he has received from the Regional Housing Board on the amount of affordable housing needed in Oxfordshire *(a)* in 2005 and *(b)* over the next 10 years. [5809]

Yvette Cooper: The South East Regional Housing Board has not given any advice to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister on the amount of affordable housing needed in Oxfordshire.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people in Oxfordshire he expects to benefit from the Key Worker Living Scheme. [5811]

Yvette Cooper: Allocations are not made by individual counties. The Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area has been allocated over £37 million in 2004–05 and 2005–06 to invest in the provision of key worker living homebuy equity loans to help an estimated 900 households into home ownership by March 2006. In addition funding has been allocated

to develop over 1,600 new homes to rent or buy through shared ownership in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area by March 2007.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who the zone agent is for Oxfordshire in the Key Worker Living Scheme. [5812]

Yvette Cooper: Keystart Housing Association is the zone agent for the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire area supported by Sovereign Housing Association in Oxfordshire.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the impact of the key worker housing scheme in Hampshire. [5172]

Yvette Cooper: The Starter Home Initiative helped 870 key workers to buy their first home in Hampshire. Key Worker Living has so far helped a further 433 key workers from Hampshire. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has commissioned evaluations of both the Starter Home Initiative and the Key Worker Living programme to assess their impact. The final report on the Starter Home Initiative and the initial findings of the Key Worker Living evaluation will be published in due course.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to allow public service employers greater local discretion in determining who should benefit from the key worker housing scheme. [5173]

Yvette Cooper: Under the Key Worker Living programme, the responsible Government Department for the education, health, prison and probation sectors decide the eligibility criteria based on recruitment and retention evidence gathered at a local level. For the Police and Fire Services, it is the contributing force, not the Home Office or the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), which determines eligibility.

As part of the consultation on low cost home ownership "HomeBuy: Expanding the Opportunity to Own" we are proposing to allow Regional Housing Boards to define eligibility for our new First Time Buyer programme, which could include key workers not currently included in the definition of Key Worker Living to reflect local priorities. ODPM will shortly be reviewing those recommendations and will make a statement on future eligibility in due course.

Local Authorities

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what Government policy is on local authorities providing an opportunity for councillors to ask questions of executive members at public meetings of the full council. [6775]

Mr. Woolas: The Local Government Act 2000 provides significant flexibility for local authorities to draw up their constitutions, in which they may include provision for councillors to ask questions of executive members at public meetings of the full council. It is for each local authority to decide whether, and how, they provide for this.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average change in total Government grant per capita for *(a)* district councils, *(b)* county councils, *(c)* metropolitan councils, *(d)* unitary councils, *(e)* London boroughs, *(f)* fire authorities and *(g)* police authorities was in England in each year since 1997. [1118]

Mr. Woolas *[pursuant to his reply, 6 June 2005, c. 405]:* I regret that incorrect information was provided. The correct information is set out in the table.

Percentage

	1998–99 to 1999–2000	*1999–2000 to 2000–01*	*2000–02 to 2001–02*	*2001–02 to 2002–03*	*2002–03 to 2003–04*	*2003–04 to 2004–05*
London (excluding GLA)	6.0	6.7	4.4	4.7	12.3	2.4
Metropolitan authorities	7.3	7.7	7.2	5.6	16.1	2.3
Unitary authorities	6.5	8.1	6.3	6.3	16.5	−0.3
Shire counties	6.2	8.7	7.1	4.8	13.0	2.8
Shire districts	1.8	3.1	4.5	5.1	10.7	−8.5
Fire authorities	3.6	2.3	3.0	2.4	4.5	20.8
Police authorities	2.3	4.5	6.0	2.4	7.3	2.3

The data used to calculate the changes are taken from data as reported by local authorities; they are outturn figures for 1998–99 to 2003–04 and budget estimates for 2004–05.

Changes between years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities. For example, the decrease for fire authorities between 2003–04 and 2004–05 is due partly to the lower levels of grant per capita received by combined fire authorities compared with other fire authorities. Before 2004–05 grants were not paid directly to combined fire authorities and so these were not included in the figures for earlier years.

Local Government Pensions

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many responses he received to the consultation on the revoking of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004. [6931]

Mr. Woolas: In total 488 responses were received.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to revoke the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004; and if he will make a statement. [6976]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 547W.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in establishing a tripartite committee to discuss local government pensions; and if he will make a statement. [7258]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 272–73W.

A further meeting of the committee is to be held shortly.

M25 Inquiry

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will announce the outcome of the Motorway Service Areas Inquiry for the M25. [5987]

Yvette Cooper: Ministers are currently considering six proposals for motorway service areas at Great Hazes, Great Wood and Junction 8/9 on the M4, New Barn Farm on the M25, and Mount Hill Farm and Burtley Wood on the M40.

Many of these proposals have been subject to previous inquiries and decisions, and the case is therefore particularly complex. We will endeavour to issue a decision shortly.

Millennium Dome

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much of the parking area adjacent to the Millennium Dome remains in the ownership of the Government. [6433]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The car park adjacent to the Dome is owned by London Underground and is currently largely used by commuters. The former coach park is now the site of the Beckham Academy. Only the former "kiss and drop" car park (for setting down passengers), once used by the New Millennium Experience Company is owned by English Partnerships and this will form part of the Dome's initial car parking.

Property-based Loans

Tom Levitt: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what contribution to the cost of participation in local government schemes and services came from equity release or other property-based loans to service users, in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* percentage terms, in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of how this proportion will change over the next 10 years. [6582]

Mr. Woolas: Under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 local authorities have wide discretionary powers to provide assistance to homeowners and tenants to repair, improve and adapt their homes—including for example, equity release loans.

Since then there has been a slow switch from local authorities offering renovation grants to loans including equity release packages. The latest figures available show that authorities made available £1.2 million in loans for this purpose in 2003–04 (0.5 per cent. of total assistance given) and planned to increase this to £8.8 million in 2004–05 (2.7 per cent.). This compares with a total level of housing renewal assistance (grants and loans for home improvement) made available by local authorities of £256 million in 2003–04, increasing to a planned level of £325 million for 2004/05. Separate figures on the proportion of loans offered as equity release are not currently available.

Local authority's use of their new powers has been monitored through a research project sponsored jointly between the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and undertaken by the Centre of Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Birmingham. The final report of this study is expected to be published shortly. The preliminary conclusions of it are that the switch from grants to loans is proceeding at a relatively slow pace but that the majority of local authorities are now actively considering such a change.

Rented Housing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he has issued to local authorities on the provision of rented housing to single people. [5750]

Yvette Cooper: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 492W.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what research he has commissioned on the effects of council house sales on the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [5755]

Yvette Cooper: Research commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) into the exploitation of the Right to Buy scheme by companies revealed that around 2,000 properties sold under the Right to Buy in Inner London from 2000 onwards were by 2003 privately rented. A summary of the findings and the research report itself were published early in 2003, and are available from the ODPM website at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_housing/documents/page/odpm_house _609025.hcsp.

Section 187 of the Housing Act 2004 tackles exploitation by companies by providing that an agreement made by a tenant within a specified time to sell on to a company a property purchased under the Right to Buy scheme will require the tenant to repay some or all of the discount s/he received. This provision came into effect on 18 January 2005.

Roadside Advertising

Ben Chapman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of unauthorised roadside advertisements placed next to motorways. [5769]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not made an estimate of the number of unauthorised roadside advertisements placed next to motorways.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on Government policy on commercial advertising alongside *(a)* motorways and *(b)* major roads. [6359]

Yvette Cooper: Outdoor advertisements are controlled by local planning authorities under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992.

Most advertisements on land directly facing motorways and major roads require the express consent from the relevant local planning authority as well as prior permission from the landowner before they may be displayed lawfully. When considering whether an advertisement should be allowed to be displayed, the local planning authority must consider amenity and public safety aspects on a site-specific basis.

Local planning authorities have enforcement powers to deal with advertisements displayed unlawfully.

Safer Stronger Communities Fund

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much money has been allocated to each London local authority from the Safer Stronger Communities fund. [4371]

Mr. Woolas: The Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) merges several existing ODPM and Home Office funding streams. Funding will be a minimum of £210 million in 2005–06, £220 million in 2006–07 and £230 million in 2007–08. The allocations to each London borough for 2005–6 are shown in the table.

£

Borough	*Total*	*Living spaces allocation 2003–04 (three year allocation)*
Barking and Dagenham	654,517.00	63,000.00
Barnet	496,711.00	123,905.00
Bexley	366,236.00	—
Brent	1,067,592.00	86,368.00
Bromley	452,760.00	—
Camden	3,417,093.00	34,528.00
City of London	150,970.00	—
City of Westminster	1,395,638.00	20,000.00
Croydon	1,044,461.00	64,680.00
Ealing	2,361,275.00	—
Enfield	806,563.00	—
Greenwich	3,199,168.00	43,694.00
Hackney	1,693,751.00	68,803.00
Hamm and Fulham	707,624.00	73,836.00
Haringey	1,312,611.40	—
Harrow	346,065.00	49,250.00
Havering	356,841.00	25,000.00
Hillingdon	465,133.00	25,000.00
Hounslow	450,315.00	1000,000.00
Islington	1,034,415.00	225,464.00
Kensington and Chelsea	662,432.00	8,067.00
Kingston upon Thames	258,113.00	20,000.00
Lambeth	1,386,905.00	215,473.00
Lewisham	1,100,655.12	74,330.00
Merton	334,262.00	—
Newham	1,842,313.00	—
Redbridge	444,113.00	16,000.00
Richmond upon Thames	322,436.00	35,000.00
Southwark	1,727,931.00	82,846.00
Sutton	315,427.00	—
Tower Hamlets	1,243,324.00	88,005.00
Waltham Forest	1,363,230.00	24,700.00
Wandsworth	1,054,832.00	48,770.00
Total	33,835,712.52	1,616,719.00

John Hemming: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the allocation from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund to each local authority in England is for financial year 2005–06, in terms of *(a)* total amount and *(b)* amount per capita, broken down by each element of the Fund. [4857]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Smoke Alarms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many and what percentage of *(a)* battery-operated and *(b)* hard-wired smoke alarms were found to be defective in dwelling fires in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [6345]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested for each year since 1994 is contained in the following table.

Smoke alarm failures in dwelling fires by type of alarm, England, 1994–2003

	1994	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Battery-powered					
Alarm present	6,234	6,064	7,238	7,754	8,108
Alarm failed	1,688	1,805	2,613	2,870	3,447
Failure rate (percentage)	27	30	36	37	43
Mains-powered					
Alarm present	4,831	5,457	7,115	7,994	9,330
Alarm failed	400	493	664	731	953
Failure rate (percentage)	8	9	9	9	10

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Battery-powered					
Alarm present	9,156	9,596	10,189	9,395	10,057
Alarm failed	3,867	4,199	4,467	3,936	3,945
Failure rate (percentage)	42	44	44	42	39
Mains-powered					
Alarm present	10,832	11,597	11,370	10,929	11,896
Alarm failed	1,276	1,310	1,464	1,314	1,425
Failure rate (percentage)	12	11	13	12	12

Notes:
1. Data exclude estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of national industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
2. Mains-powered alarms include those powered by mains only or by battery and mains.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service FDR1 returns to ODPM.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Adult Education

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the level of education budget on adult education provision. [5305]

Angela E. Smith: Under its current budget allocations, the Department for Employment and Learning continues to support a wide range of education and training provision that is accessible to adults and young people alike. This includes mainstream courses, as well as a proposed strategy for e-learning, a consultation document on which will be published in the autumn. In addition to a comprehensive programme of further education, adult

learners are eligible for skills training and work preparation programmes, including the pilot Training for Work initiative.

Ball-bearing Guns

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prosecutions there were in the Province for the illegal use of ball-bearing guns in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [5326]

Mr. Woodward: The information is not available in the form requested.

Information supplied by the PSNI shows the number of offences cleared from 2001 to 2005 where air guns, which include ball-bearing guns, were involved in the incident.

Offences cleared where an air gun was involved in the incident[1]

Clearance type	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
Charge/summons	4	5	15	13
Adult caution/informed warning	0	5	3	2
Juvenile restorative caution/ informed warning	4	4	3	12
Otherwise disposed of	14	8	14	34
Total offences cleared	22	22	35	61

[1] These figures relate to offences where an air gun was involved in the incident—how the air gun was actually used is not recorded.

Bovine TB

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of cattle in Northern Ireland are estimated to have bovine tuberculosis, broken down by constituency; and if he will make a statement. [6677]

Angela E. Smith: In 2004–05 financial year 13,154 cattle had a positive reaction to a bovine tuberculosis test compared to 15,593 in the previous year. This represents 0.78 per cent. of the cattle in Northern Ireland. Disease incidence is not available by constituency.

There is clear evidence of a decline in the incidence of TB which is expected to continue this year. This reflects the impact of all the measures which have been introduced to deal with TB and I greatly appreciate the support of the farming industry in the implementation of these measures.

Carers' Week

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department took to mark Carers' Week 2005. [7050]

Mr. Woodward: In addition to many other events that were held across Northern Ireland in support of Carers' Week 2005, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety organised a Carers Convention for its own staff. The aim of the Convention was to highlight the contribution made by carers and the information and support available to them in undertaking their important role. The event was staged with the direct participation of some of the key voluntary and community organisations behind Carers' Week 2005.

Classroom Assistants

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many classroom assistants are working in schools in each Education and Library Board area in Northern Ireland; and what the equivalent figures were for each of the past five years. [5554]

Angela E. Smith: The available information in respect of the number of classroom/nursery assistants employed in each Education and Library Board area across the school sectors is detailed as follows:

Full/part time classroom and nursery assistants in controlled and maintained schools

	BELB		*NEELB*		*SEELB*		*SELB*		*WELB*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
2000–01	276	154	211	669	233	864	69	1,023	302	588
2001–02	294	125	206	713	270	979	82	1,104	322	605
2002–03	306	175	142	684	287	1,085	71	1,243	337	702
2003–04	329	489	147	820	294	1,193	[1]70	1,566	324	697
2004–05	373	471	162	944	278	1,335	110	1,810	358	740

[1] Board estimate as full records for 2003–04 are not available.

Full/part-time classroom and nursery assistants in voluntary grammar schools

	BELB		*NEELB*		*SEELB*		*SELB*		*WELB*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
2002–03	16	11	11	9	23	8	15	8	13	2
2003–04	18	13	12	11	25	8	17	10	18	2
2004–05	20	17	15	20	27	14	13	24	16	8

Full/part time classroom and nursery assistants in grant maintained integrated schools

	BELB		*NEELB*		*SEELB*		*SELB*		*WELB*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
2002–03	13	16	15	22	25	26	33	20	28	21
2003–04	20	24	16	29	28	35	36	26	31	22
2004–05	31	16	23	32	38	52	32	34	40	34

The information prior to 2002–03 in respect of voluntary grammar schools and grant maintained schools is not readily available.

Co-ownership Homes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many houses have been built under the co-ownership scheme in the Province in the last three years; what the uptake of co-ownership homes was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [6676]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland Co-ownership Housing Association, which administers the co-ownership scheme in Northern Ireland, does not build houses.

The table below shows the uptake of the co-ownership scheme in the last 3 years.

	First time buyers assisted to buy homes
2002–03	801
2003–04	463
2004–05	502

Credit Card Fraud

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost of credit card fraud involving identity fraud in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [6573]

Mr. Woodward: The PSNI have provided the following figures. These are an estimate of criminal benefit obtained as a result of deception offences involving credit cards reported to the police. I am advised that this equates closely to credit card fraud involving identity fraud.

I am assured that the PSNI Cheque and Credit Card Unit is working closely with all relevant agencies and is involved in a number of different initiatives in an effort to combat credit card fraud. All reported instances of fraud are fully investigated and offenders made amenable to the courts.

	Number of investigations	*Criminal benefit (£)*
2002	626	1,279,286
2003	597	330,774
2004	551	281,512
2005 (to date)	362	413,489
Total		2,305,061

Notes:

1. Records are not available prior to 2002.
2. These figures are based on incidents reported to the police. The true figure could be significantly higher as much of this type of crime is not reported directly to the police, but rather financial institutions such as banks.

Dementia (Personal Care)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce free personal and nursing care for those with dementia in Northern Ireland. [7125]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Lady to my answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 859W.

Disability Discrimination Act

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the compliance of public services in Northern Ireland with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [5518]

Angela E. Smith: While no assessment has been made of the compliance of public services in Northern Ireland with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), and nor is there any legislative requirement to do so, Government are fully committed to complying with all the requirements of the DDA. To this end, in relation to the access duties of the DDA, Accessibility Audits have been carried out on 168 of the 205 buildings within the Northern Ireland Civic Service Estate. Four buildings are still to be audited and the remaining 33 buildings do not require to be audited or to have adjustments made at this time because there is no public interface, no disabled member of staff or for operational reasons. All sites are kept under review and changes made if necessary.

Public service providers must ensure they are meeting their duties under the Act and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland can provide detailed advice and information on meeting these requirements. In its publication "Code of Practice, Rights of Access—Goods, Facilities, Services and Premises" the Commission recommends, as good practice, that service providers themselves consider certain steps to ensure compliance with the DDA. These include regularly reviewing whether their services are accessible to disabled people and consulting disabled customers, disabled staff and disability organisations about the accessibility of their services.

Education Action Zones

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) when education action zones will be set up in Northern Ireland; and in which areas; [5434]

(2) what funding will be available in education action zones in Northern Ireland; and from which sources. [5435]

Angela E. Smith: Each education and library board has been invited to work up education action zone proposals. The Department anticipates that each board will have at least one zone operating in its area and that zones will begin to come on stream early in the 2005–06 school year.

Some £6 million is expected to be made available by the Department over the next three financial years for the implementation of the edueation action zone initiative across Northern Ireland. Education and Library Boards have also been encouraged to seek and secure inter-agency support both in kind and in funding.

EWAY Rapid Transport Scheme

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress on plans to introduce the EWAY Rapid Transport Scheme into Strangford and East Belfast. [6674]

Mr. Woodward: The pilot rapid transit scheme known as "EWAY" is included in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2015, which was published in November 2004. This is a large, complex and expensive scheme and as with all such schemes, it is dependent on funding being available and is subject to a range of evaluation and statutory processes. Due to other higher priorities at present, it has not been possible to provide funding for EWAY in the Budget period to end 2008. The affordability of the scheme will however be kept under review in future budget rounds.

Exceptional Closure Days (Schools)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria are used by Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland when deciding whether to grant additional exceptional closure days for schools. [5553]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of Education determines the criteria for exceptional closure days in schools. The approval of such closures is only agreed in exceptional circumstances, where the closing of a school is outside the control of the school authority e.g. the death of a pupil at the school, flooding or burst pipes, electricity failure, terrorist incident etc.

Executive Programme Funds

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been allocated under each of the Executive Programme Funds in each year since their creation; and on what projects and programmes. [5431]

Angela E. Smith: The amounts allocated from each of the Executive Programme Funds since their creation is shown in the following table. Details of the underlying projects funded through these allocations have been placed in the Library.

Executive Programme Fund allocations

Fund	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*	*Total*
Children's	2.9	6.3	17.2	6.0	5.9	38.3
Innovation/Modernisation	0.0	11.7	53.8	75.8	94.2	235.5
Infrastructure	9.1	29.0	41.2	0.0	0.0	79.3
New Directions	7.2	25.0	36.4	0.0	0.0	68.6
Service Modernisation	6.6	8.4	7.4	0.0	0.0	22.4
Social Inclusion/Community Regeneration	7.4	21.1	38.9	1.7	0.0	69.3
Total allocations	33.2	101.5	194.9	83.6	100.1	513.3

Free School Meals

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many school children in each Education and Library Board area receive free school meals. [5339]

Angela E. Smith: At October 2004, the number of pupils entitled to free school meals, and the uptake in each Education and Library Board was as follows:

	Entitlement	*Uptake*
BELB	16,257	12,960
NEELB	10,471	8,213
SEELB	9,331	6,771
SELB	14,264	11,732
WELB	15,873	13,894
Total	66,196	53,570

Note:
The details exclude pupils in special schools which are not available.

Education and Library Boards have been required this year to set targets for increasing the numbers of pupils who take up their entitlement to free school meals.

Free Travel

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce free rail and bus travel for those with a disability in Northern Ireland; and what discussions he has had with Translink about this matter. [7389]

Mr. Woodward: Blind people and war pensioners already receive free travel and other groups of people with disabilities are entitled to half fare travel. The Department has no plans to extend the provision of free fares or has the issue been discussed with Translink.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce free fares on public transport for everyone aged 60 years and over. [7629]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has no plans to extend the terms of the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme to include free travel on public transport for those aged 60 to 64. Those aged 65 and over already receive free travel.

Hospital Services Access

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether British passport holders who are not registered with a general practitioner are able to access services at hospitals in the Province. [5342]

Mr. Woodward: A person's ability to access hospital services in Northern Ireland is not dependent upon their being registered with a general practitioner or being a British passport holder. Those persons deemed "ordinarily resident" and visitors from European Economic Area or from a number of countries with reciprocal health care agreements can receive those services free at the point of delivery. Possession of a British passport does not automatically confer "ordinarily resident" status, for example, in cases where a former UK resident has been working outside of the country for more than five years.

Internet

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of households in the Province he estimates have had access to the internet in each of the last 10 years. [5354]

Angela E. Smith: As part of its ongoing digital inclusion activities, the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister has commissioned surveys from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on an annual basis since 2002 in order to determine access and usage of information computer technology (ICT), including internet, by members of the public.

While the survey does not specify the number of actual households with internet access, the figures do indicate the percentage of the population aged 16 or over in Northern Ireland with access to an internet-enabled personal computer. These figures, which are available from 2002 only, have shown an increase in access year-on-year, and are as follows:

	Percentage of population aged 16 + with access to internet PC
2002	47
2003	55
2004	58
2005	60

In addition, there are currently an estimated 150,000 broadband accounts in Northern Ireland. Broadband availability is presently at 98.5 per cent., up from 60 per cent. in March 2004.

As a result of the Broadband Services Contract awarded to BT by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment there will be 100 per cent. broadband availability for all households and businesses in Northern Ireland by the end of December 2005.

The Northern Ireland eGovernment Unit continues to encourage public access to and uptake of ICT through participation in a Digital Inclusion Steering Group and through a range of developmental projects such as the home computer initiative, Citizen eMail and a digital mapping facility, which will provide a resource identifying public internet access points across Northern Ireland. In addition, and in collaboration with, Ofcom, the BBC, EGSA and representative companies from the private sector the Northern Ireland eGovernment Unit is working on a project to put an internet literacy CD into every household throughout Northern Ireland.

Wider public sector programmes aimed at increasing access include the Electronic Libraries project that now offers free internet access throughout every public library in Northern Ireland and the C2K Classroom 2000 initiative providing internet-enabled PCs to every school in Northern Ireland.

These projects are in line with efforts currently being undertaken in England and in the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Literacy Levels

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of literacy levels among 11-year-olds in each of the Education and Library Board areas in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [6669]

Angela E. Smith: There is an improving trend across all board areas as measured by the end of Key Stage 2 assessment outcomes although there are still some schools where performance is below the level expected and where support and special interventions have been put in place.

Percentage pupils achieving expected level at KS2 (L4 and above)

	2001-02[1]	*2002-03*	*2003-04*[2]
BELB	65.1	66.0	n/a
WELB	72.8	75.6	n/a
NEELB	77.1	77.3	n/a
SEELB	75.8	78.1	n/a
SELB	76.8	78.7	n/a
NI average	73.9	75.6	n/a

[1] Due to industrial action, NI KS2 results for 2001-02 are incomplete.

[2] Due to industrial action, NI KS2 results are not available for 2003-04

Local Election (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reason the draft Local Election (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2005, tabled on 9 June was withdrawn on 16 June; what the *(a)* substantive and *(b)* other differences between the order withdrawn and the new one tabled on 16 June were; and if he will make a statement. [6930]

Mr. Hanson: The effect of the new order tabled on 16 June was to add an "or" before civil partner in Article 4(1)*(a)* . Due to a typographical error the "or" had failed to be included in the original order tabled on 9 June.

Article 4(1)*(a)* of the order as laid on 9 June read:

(a) in paragraph 1(2)*(c)* after "spouse," insert "civil partner",'

Article 4(1)*(a)* of the order laid on 16 June reads:

(a) in paragraph 1(2)*(c)* after "spouse" insert "or civil partner",'.

Motor Tax and Insurance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been prosecuted for driving without *(a)* tax and *(b)* insurance in Northern Ireland in each of the past three years. [5500]

Mr. Woodward: The figures requested are provided as follows:

(a) Tax

Those detected for vehicle excise duty offences are usually offered an out-of-court settlement. Only if they

ignore the penalty or refuse to pay are they prosecuted in court. The figures for those prosecuted or who paid out-of-court settlements in the last three years are:

	Number of prosecutions or out-of-court settlements
2002–03	13,932
2003–04	10,876
2004–05	8,796

Note:
Of the 33,604 cases actioned over the last three years 84 per cent. resulted in out-of-court settlements and 16 per cent. were prosecuted through the courts.

(b) Insurance

The table provides details of prosecutions for driving without insurance.

	Prosecutions for driving without a licence
2000	2,744
2001	3,638
2002	4,508
2003	3,992

Note:
Statistics have been provided for 2000–03, with the latter being the most up-to-date available. Due to a backlog of court proceedings data, a new and finalised 2003 dataset has recently been produced and therefore figures for 2003 used previously may differ from those in this response.

Parades

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total expense incurred in policing the *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2004 Tour of the North Orange march in Belfast was. [7148]

Mr. Woodward: The route followed by the Tour of the North Parade changes on alternate years, resulting in different deployments. Approximate costs, based on police deployed and catering provided are as follows:

	£
2004	64,390
2005	74,533

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Police Service of Northern Ireland Chief Constable is in possession of a legal opinion relating to the status of 11/1 application forms submitted by Orange Lodges to the Parades Commission with more than one signature in the required box. [7192]

Mr. Woodward: The Chief Constable is in receipt of a legal opinion concerning the issue of notification of parades using form 11/1 (application to parade). This advice is subject to legal privilege.

Pensioners

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners in Strangford constituency are in receipt of disability living allowance, broken down by *(a)* care and *(b)* mobility components. [6681]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is shown in the following table for February 2005.

Component	*Number of pensioners*
Care only	230
Mobility only	388
Care and mobility	1,709
Strangford total	2,327

Additional information on combined Care and Mobility awards is provided to avoid double counting.

PFI/PPP

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public finance initiative and public-private partnership projects arrangements involving Jarvis plc are in place in *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* the Department of Education in the Province; and if he will make a statement. [6679]

Angela E. Smith: No public finance initiative or public-private partnership projects involving Jarvis are in place in the Health and Personal Social Services or the Department of Education in Northern Ireland.

Police

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated annual running costs are of the recently acquired helicopter for use by the police in Northern Ireland. [7538]

Mr. Woodward: The Police Service of Northern Ireland will shortly bring a helicopter into full operational service following a period of trials. This will be used to assist officers in reducing crime and improving community safety.

Total running costs for the first year are estimated to be £686,565.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many typist manager's posts there are in each Police Service Northern Ireland District Command area; and how many posts are expected to be required in future. [7139]

Mr. Woodward: The Police Service of Northern Ireland recently conducted a review of typing services within the organisation. The review was necessary to reflect the reality in recent years of the reduction in police officer numbers overall and the significant investment in information technology.

As a result of that review all typing manager posts were disestablished, and no typing manager posts currently exist in any District Command Unit.

The issue of redundancy does not arise as the PSNI is taking a number of steps to re-deploy the surplus typists, including those who previously fulfilled the role of typing manager.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that the police station in Castle Rock is retained. [7537]

Mr. Woodward: The issue of station closures is addressed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Estate Strategy Review. The Chief Constable and Policing Board continue to work closely on this matter.

Before the Police Service of Northern Ireland make a submission to the Policing Board to close a particular station, they undertake a consultation process with the relevant District Policing Partnership.

This will be the case with Castlerock PSNI station as with any other which the Police Service propose to close.

Public Land Disposal

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to dispose of public land *(a)* on the Stormont estate in Belfast and *(b)* elsewhere in Northern Ireland. [5520]

Angela E. Smith: It is not possible to provide details of all plans to dispose of public lands in Northern Ireland. However in the case of the Northern Ireland Civil Service office estate (i.e. properties held by the Department of Finance and Personnel) the Government are currently considering proposals to transfer ownership of a number of Government office buildings to the private sector as part of a major programme of transformation and rationalisation. The proposals include some properties at the south eastern corner of the Stormont estate. This particular aspect will be subject to public consultation in the autumn.

Parliament Buildings, Stormont Castle, Stormont House and the surrounding parkland are specifically excluded from the plans.

Safety Cameras

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many speed cameras there are in the North Belfast area; and how much money has been raised in fines from each of them since their installation. [7630]

Mr. Woodward: There is one fixed road safety camera in North Belfast DCU, which is located on the Antrim Road. The camera has made a total of 2,352 detections for speeding since it was installed on 1 July 2003, generating a total of £141,120 in fine revenue.

Schools (Integrated Status)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools in Northern Ireland *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted integrated status in each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement. [3474]

Angela E. Smith: The position with regard to proposals for new integrated schools in the past five years is as follows:

Year	
2005	1 application for transformation of existing school—Approved
2004	No applications
2003	5 applications for new schools—4 approved and 1 turned down (which had also applied in 2002)
	2 applications for transformation of existing schools—Both approved
2002	2 applications for new schools—1 approved and 1 turned down
	2 applications for transformation of existing schools—Both approved
2001	1 application for a new school—Approved

Translink Metro

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to extend the Translink Metro system to other parts of Northern Ireland. [7162]

Mr. Woodward: The Metro system is confined to the Greater Belfast area. However, Translink has recently announced the start of strategic reviews of its Ulsterbus district and schools networks, consistent with the objectives of the Regional Transportation Strategy. The intentions of the reviews are to provide attractive and more frequent core services to encourage passenger growth and to maximise the use of available resources to improve public transport accessibility in the cities, towns and rural areas outside Belfast. The review programme is expected to take up to three years to design and implement.

Young Offenders

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of young offenders in Northern Ireland who had *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug abuse problems in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [6675]

Mr. Woodward: In the 12 months to May 2005, 359 young offenders committed to Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and Prison declared a dependency on alcohol and 468 inmates a dependency/misuse of drugs. 58 inmates did not declare a dependency on either alcohol or drugs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Confiscation Orders

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many confiscation orders have been refused by the Crown courts in each police authority area since they were introduced; and what the total value was. [6166]

Ms Harman: During the year ending 31 March 2005, 2503 confiscation orders were made in the Crown court. The number of occasions on which the Crown court considered making an order but was unable to make one is not known.

County Court Judgments

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the admissibility of post office box addresses in applications for county court judgments. [7281]

Ms Harman: No formal assessment has been made of the implications of using post office box addresses, but it would be unlikely to provide the degree of certainty of service necessary for legal process. A party must therefore give either his solicitor's business address or his own residence or place of business as his address for service.

Court Ushers

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will undertake a consultation on a code of practice for coroners courts on services for court ushers, with particular reference to bereaved relatives. [6851]

Ms Harman: We plan to issue a White Paper and a draft coroner and death certification Bill during the first parliamentary session. Meanwhile as the charter takes effect, the Department is supporting a range of local initiatives aimed at improving the quality of support, and opportunity for participation, provided to bereaved people who currently have contact with the coroner system.

Criminal Cases

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to reduce the cost of large criminal cases. [7254]

Bridget Prentice: We intend to set out our vision for the future of legal aid, outlining the Department's long-term strategy for reform, including work to control high cost criminal cases, and summarising the key findings of the Fundamental Legal Aid Review, in due course. In addition the Legal Services Commission has made a number of detailed reforms to the way it purchases services in high cost cases, including the introduction of individual case contracts to control expenditure.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many of her Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6258]

Bridget Prentice: My Department is implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 200 posts out of London and the South East by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some posts to relatively deprived areas in the South East. So far my Department has not identified any posts suitable for transfer to deprived areas in the South East.

Entry Clearance Appeals

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many appeals against the refusal of entry clearance to the UK have *(a)* been submitted, *(b)* been acknowledged to the applicant and *(c)* received an appeal date since 4th April. [6442]

Bridget Prentice: Following the recent commencement of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 4 April 2005, and the required changes to its electronic records database, the information requested is not currently available, and could not be produced without incurring disproportionate costs. The AIT aims to process all appeal receipts arising from a refusal of entry clearance decision within five business days. Notification of the appeal's receipt will be forwarded to the appeal parties as soon as is practicable thereafter.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many appeals against the refusal of entry clearance to *(a)* the Immigration Appellate Authority and *(b)* the Immigration Appeals Tribunal, (i) were submitted, (ii) were acknowledged to the applicant and (iii) received an appeal date in each year since 1995. [6443]

Bridget Prentice: Following the recent commencement of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 4 April 2005, and the changes required to its electronic records database, the information requested is not currently available and could not be produced without incurring disproportionate costs. Prior to the AIT, the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA), and the Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT) did not differentiate between different categories of immigration appeal. The available data for the IAA and the IAT, for the calendar years 1997 to 2004, show the number of immigration appeals received, and decided, as follows:

	IAA appeal receipts	*IAA appeal decisions*	*IAT appeal receipts*	*IAT appeal decisions*
1997	11,540	13,800	1,773	1,079
1998	7,290	12,795	557	752
1999	8,343	9,139	733	829
2000	6,149	7,672	401	931
2001	10,378	9,114	427	545
2002	12,024	12,762	598	799
2003	14,637	12,411	871	808
2004	31,404	30,539	1,317	754

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases of appeals against the refusal of entry clearance to the UK made in 1995 remain to be concluded. [6444]

Bridget Prentice: Following the recent commencement of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 4 April 2005, and the required changes to its electronic records database, the information requested is not currently available, and could not be produced without incurring disproportionate costs.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the Department's current estimate is of the average length of time an

applicant appealing against the refusal of entry clearance to the UK waits for *(a)* a date for an appeal hearing and *(b)* an appeal hearing. [6445]

Bridget Prentice: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) aims initially to process all out-of-country immigration appeal receipts within five business days. Where such an appeal arises from a refusal of entry clearance, served prior to 4 April 2005, the appeal is listed for a hearing date approximately six weeks from the AIT taking receipt of the appeal.

Where the appeal arises from a refusal of entry clearance, served on the appellant on or after 4 April 2005, the AIT notifies receipt of the appeal to the parties within five business days. The AIT will list these appeals for a hearing date once it has taken receipt of the respondent's bundle of appeal documents. The appeal is then listed for a hearing date four to six weeks from receipt of the bundle.

Due to recent changes to the AIT electronic database, as part of its implementation, the average time to a hearing is not currently available and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's birthday honours list; and at what rank of honour. [5122]

Ms Harman: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

Legal Aid/Salaries

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of solicitors' firms ceased performance of their criminal legal aid contracts before the expiry of the contract's term. [7253]

Bridget Prentice: There are 2,648 current contracts for criminal defence services.

490 of these contracts are for work in London having being issued on 31 July 2004, and are due to expire on 31 December 2005.

2,159 contracts were issued for work outside London on 31 July 2004, and are due to expire on 31 March 2007.

Of the 2,648 active national contracts, 3.9 per cent. (104 contracts) were terminated before the expiry of the contracts' term.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what checks have been undertaken to ensure that the criminal legal aid budget is sufficient to meet human rights requirements. [7255]

Bridget Prentice: We constantly review our forecasts for both civil and criminal legal aid and take any action necessary to fully fund all those cases which require legal aid from within the Department's Delegated Expenditure Limit (DEL). No individual who satisfied the interests of justice test could be denied legal aid.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to increase the criminal legal aid budget. [7256]

Bridget Prentice: The resource expenditure for the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) for 2004–05 was £1.151 billion (subject to end of year audit). The projected expenditure for 2005–06 is £1.211 billion.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many law firms competed for each civil legal aid contract, on average, in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [7424]

Bridget Prentice: There are no competitive tendering for civil legal aid contracts. In the most recent bid round in 2003, approximately 90 per cent. of existing contracted solicitors re-bid for their contract, with the other 10 per cent. being let to solicitors firms moving into new categories of law or who were new to legal aid and not-for-profit agencies.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the progress of competitive tendering for civil legal aid contracts. [7425]

Bridget Prentice: We do not have any plans to introduce competitive tendering for civil legal aid contracts.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the average salary of *(a)* a barrister in first tenancy, *(b)* a one-year qualified barrister, *(c)* a trainee solicitor, *(d)* a newly-qualified solicitor and *(e)* a one-year qualified solicitor conducting criminal legal aid work in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [6593]

Bridget Prentice: The Bar Council does not hold information centrally about the earnings of barristers in their first tenancy or those who have been qualified for one year. This information is difficult to collect since barristers are not salaried, they are self-employed and their earnings will depend on where they work and the work they carry out. Many junior barristers will have a varied caseload that can include civil and criminal work. The Bar is considering the possibility of collecting such data.

The Law Society has provided some information about the average earnings of solicitors generally. Figures for average salaries earned from criminal work are not collated separately. In 2004, the average salary of a solicitor in the first year of their training contract was £20,013 and the average salary for newly qualified solicitors was £32,139. The figure of £32,139 is however based on a survey with small sample sizes. Solicitors' earnings are generally dependent on the grade they operate at, the size and location of the firm.

There is a minimum starting salary for trainee solicitors recommended by the Council of the Law Society. The 2004 minimum figure is set at £15,900 for Central London and £14,200 for Outer London and the rest of England and Wales.

Short Money

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what accountability mechanisms there are to scrutinise the spending of "Short" money. [6340]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

Short money is governed by the Resolution of the House of Commons of 26 May 1999.

Each opposition party which receives Short money is required to submit a certificate from an independent professional auditor within nine months of the year end confirming that all the expenses for which the party received financial assistance under the terms of the Resolution were incurred exclusively in connection with the party's parliamentary business.

If the certificate is not received within the time specified no further financial assistance is paid until such a certificate is so furnished.

Guidance for completion of the certificate is provided by the House administration and the form of the certificate has been agreed with the National Audit Office.

HEALTH

Abortion

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will propose the setting up of a joint committee of both Houses to consider the scientific, medical and social changes in relation to abortion as recommended by the Science and Technology Committee in its March Report on Human Reproductive Technologies and the Law. [5795]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 413W.

Alliance Medical Ltd.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the contracts awarded to Alliance Medical to provide services for the NHS. [2233]

Mr. Byrne: The Department entered into a single contract with Alliance Medical Limited (AML) to provide magnetic resonance imaging screening to the national health service through state of the art mobile units. Details of any other contracts with AML agreed by local NHS commissioners are not collected centrally.

Ambulances

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has issued to health service trusts on the operational life of ambulances. [6075]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Department has not issued guidance on the operational life of ambulances, as it is a matter for each trust.

Anaemia

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have suffered from cancer-treatment induced anaemia in England over the last three years; [6714]

(2) how many cancer patients in England are receiving erythropoietin; [6715]

(3) how many cancer centres prescribe erythropoietin; [6717]

(4) if she will meet leading clinicians to discuss the use of erythropoietin in the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [6719]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect information on the number of cancer patients with cancer treatment induced anaemia; the number of cancer patients who receive erythropoietin or the number of cancer centres prescribing erythropoietin.

Erythropoietin (alpha and beta) and darbopoetin for the treatment of cancer treatment induced anaemia have been referred to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for appraisal. Guidance is expected to be published at the end of this year. It would be better to wait until that guidance is available before considering setting up a meeting.

Anti-arthritis drugs

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that health care services in Shropshire receive the funding required to ensure equality of access to anti-arthritis drugs on a geographical basis. [6043]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding is allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. The components of the formula are used to weight each PCT's "crude" population according to their relative need (age, and additional need) for healthcare and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (market forces factor).

It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Anti-depressants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions there have been for anti-depressants in England in each year since 1991, broken down by type, including fluoxetine. [4434]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of prescription items of anti-depressants that have been dispensed in the community in England in each year since 1991 has been placed in the Library.

Audiology Services

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in England are waiting *(a)* to be assessed for and *(b)* fitted with an NHS hearing aid for the first time; [6461]

(2) how many people in England are using NHS analogue hearing aids; and what information she has collated on the numbers who would benefit from switching to digital hearing aids. [6470]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally.

Back and Joint Problems (Nurses)

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to collect centrally information relating to the number and percentage of nurses in each primary care trust area in each year who *(a)* report personal back and joint injuries and *(b)* retire as a result of back or joint problems. [6028]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to reducing the burden of information requirements on the national health service. Information is collected centrally to support key policies and monitor national targets as set out in the NHS Plan and subsequent documents. It is for local NHS trusts to monitor the ill health of their staff.

Bedside Bibles

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports she has received of complaints to hospitals about Bibles in wards. [4002]

Jane Kennedy: The Department does not collect any central information regarding reports about complaints to hospitals about Bibles in wards.

Cancer Services/Treatment

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to improve the pre-diagnostic infrastructure for breast cancer. [5669]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* People who live in deprived areas are less likely to attend for screening for breast cancer. Including cultural and religious reasons, women from minority ethnic groups are less likely to accept invitations for screening than the general population as a whole. Language and access to information can be a significant barrier and can affect the coverage levels.

A number of steps have been taken to improve this situation:

The national informed choice leaflet, "Breast Screening: The Facts", which is sent out with every invitation for screening, has now been translated into 18 languages.

In December 2003, national health service cancer screening programmes published "Inequalities of Access to Cancer Screening: A Literature Review". The recommendations in the review have been sent to all local screening programmes.

A number of local actions have been put in place to combat inequalities in inner-city areas. For example, in Haringey, sessions on screening have been held in community centres, with advocates from the relevant communities attending to translate and encourage women to attend their screening appointment. Many primary care trusts are conducting similar initiatives across the country.

In 2004, to raise awareness about the availability of breast cancer screening, the NHS cancer screening programmes issued a regional communications pack to all local breast screening programmes to increase coverage rates. The packs include advice on raising the awareness of screening, including posters.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to improve participation in breast screening programmes. [5670]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 December 2005]:* To raise awareness about the availability of breast cancer screening, in 2004 the National Health Service cancer screening programmes issued a regional communications pack to all local breast screening programmes to increase coverage rates. The packs include advice on raising the awareness of screening, including posters.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Government have made in reducing the difference in breast cancer survival rates between women in the most affluent areas and those in the most deprived areas. [7430]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are committed to reducing inequality of outcomes in all cancers. We have a commitment to reduce death rates from cancer in under-75s by at least 20 per cent. by 2010, with a reduction in the inequalities gap of at least 6 per cent. between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators, the spearhead primary care trusts (PCTs), and the population as a whole.

Statistics for women diagnosed between 1996 to 1999 showed that five year survival rates for women with breast cancer in the most affluent areas were 5.8 per cent. higher than those in the most deprived areas.

It is not clear precisely why survival rates vary. However, women in more deprived areas are more likely to have advanced breast cancer at the point of diagnosis. Work is under development to encourage people, especially in less affluent areas, to seek help from their general practitioner earlier. We will be piloting programmes in some spearhead PCTs, looking at knowledge and attitudes towards cancer, as well as working with the voluntary sector to learn from previous awareness-raising campaigns.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority received ministerial authority to start the Specialist Cancer Services Review. [6686]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* In line with the Department's Shifting the Balance of Power initiative, the Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority is not required to seek ministerial approval prior to undertaking a service review.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the role of the Sussex cancer network in relation to cancer treatment waiting times. [5970]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority, the local headquarters of the national health service, advises that primary care trusts (PCTs) in Sussex continue to work with relevant acute trusts to reduce waiting times for East Sussex residents. The Sussex cancer network works closely with the PCTs and acute trusts within Surrey and Sussex to ensure the delivery of high quality cancer services and reduced waiting times. The Sussex cancer

network also works with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which provides cancer treatment to some East Sussex residents.

I understand that the strategic direction for the Sussex cancer network is laid out within its strategic plan. The strategic plan was agreed by all stakeholders of the network, including patients and carers. The strategic plan and further information on the work of the network is available on its website at www.sussexcancer.net.

Cane Hill (Coulsdon)

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for the Cane Hill site, Coulsdon. [5764]

Jane Kennedy: The Cane Hill hospital site is included in a portfolio of properties to transfer to English Partnerships (EP) as part of a wider agreement with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to support the Government's sustainable communities programme. EP and the national health service will be working together on plans for the overall redevelopment of the site, which will reflect future health service requirements.

Charing Cross Hospital (Private Treatments)

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effects on services for NHS patients of the provision made for the treatment of private patients at Charing Cross hospital. [6136]

Jane Kennedy: Hammersmith Hospitals National Health Service Trust, of which Charing Cross hospital is a part, has been providing treatment to private patients for over 20 years. Income generated from private treatment means more revenue for the trust to improve its facilities and services.

Clinical Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the NHS has been from successful claims for clinical negligence in each year since 1975 in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms. [253]

Jane Kennedy: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) handles clinical negligence claims made against national health service bodies in England. No accurate national data were collected on clinical negligence claims prior to the establishment of the NHSLA on 20 November 1995. Centrally collected data from the NHSLA are shown in the table.

Reliable data on real costs are not available. It may take a number of years from notification of a claim to settlement of that claim and payments will have been made in relation to that claim throughout the full period. For example, defence costs will be paid quarterly as the claim progresses and the claimant bill will be paid at conclusion.

Total payments for successful closed clinical negligence claims by year of notification to the NHSLA scheme member as at 31 March 2005[1]

Year of notification	*Total payments (£)*
1996–97	238,614,168
1997–98	416,888,183
1998–99	330,573,238
1999–2000	326,812,451
2000–01	193,803,432
2001–02	117,742,245
2002–03	36,609,841
2003–04	10,539,364

[1] The year a claim is notified to the NHSLA has no relevance to the year payments are made with regard to that claim. It may take a number of years from notification of a claim to settlement of that claim and payments will have been made in relation to that claim over the full period.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims for clinical negligence there have been against the NHS in each year since 1991 *(a)* in total and *(b)* per thousand finished consultant episodes; and what percentage of these claims were successful in each year since 1991. [255]

Jane Kennedy: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) handles clinical negligence claims made against national health service bodies in England. No accurate national data was collected on clinical negligence claims prior to the establishment of the NHSLA on 20 November 1995. Data on clinical negligence claims reported to the NHSLA based upon the date reported to the NHSLA scheme member, as at 31 March 2005, are shown in the table.

Year of notification	*Number of claims*[1]	*Percentage of claims currently successful (percentage)*[2]
1996–97	4,136	47.63
1997–98	6,932	52.37
1998–99	6,916	42.29
1999–2000	7,036	40.22
2000–01	6,915	35.84
2001–02	7,215	30.91
2002–03	6,257	23.03
2003–04	4,844	16.02

[1] It is not possible to provide the number of claims per thousand finished consultant episodes. The date a claim is made has no relevance to the date the incident giving rise to a claim occurred; this may be many years before. To link the number of claims reported in a particular year to the number of finished consultant episodes in that year would be open to misinterpretation.

[2] It may take many years from the date of notification to settle a claim. The percentage of claims successful relating to a particular year will therefore increase over time as more claims are settled.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much compensation NHS bodies paid in respect of clinical negligence claims in each year since 1996. [1354]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) handles negligence claims made against national health service bodies in England. Data collected by the NHSLA is shown in the table.

Member and NHSLA payments[1]

£

Scheme	*Damages paid* 1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
Clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST)[2]	33,983	560,503	4,007,609	9,862,486	19,433,590	244,825,189	107,204,725	205,443,691
Existing liability scheme (ELS)[3]	400,000	28,445,121	46,530,738	277,809,505	559,201,647	447,350,269	225,478,739	90,106,254
Former regional health authority (FRHA)[4]	639,647	14,914,310	9,588,467	6,214,126	5,927,289	3,587,722	2,495,605	1,261,673
Total	1,073,630	43,919,934	60,126,814	293,886,117	584,562,526	695,763,180	335,179,068	296,811,618

[1] Until 1 April 2000, excess levels were in place for ELS and until 1 April 2002, excess levels were in place for CNST. NHS trusts could settle claims up to the excess amount without reference to or funding from the NHSLA. The figures include sub-excess claims where these were notified to the NHSLA.
[2] CNST claims are those in respect of liabilities occurring on or after 1 April 1995.
[3] ELS claims are those open at 1 April 1996, where the incident pre-dates 1 April 1995.
[4] FRHA claims are pre-April 1996 and are cases against the former RHAs, fully funded by the NHSLA.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS trusts paid in respect of legal fees in clinical negligence cases in each year since 1996. [1355]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 June 2005]*: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) handles negligence claims made against national health service bodies in England. Data collected by the NHSLA are shown in the tables.

Member and NHSLA payments[1]

£

Scheme	*Defence costs paid*[2] 1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
Clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST)[3]	11,491	41,854	356,086	1,885,555	5,326,427	56,685,965	27,096,391	37,089,942
Existing Liability scheme (ELS)[4]	4,766	3,324,022	8,789,602	50,977,551	45,764,916	54,392,279	20,879,178	14,999,981
Former regional health authority (FRHA)[5]	0	2,946,002	1,894,284	721,005	627,081	585,943	275,377	223,225
Total	16,258	6,311,877	11,039,973	53,584,111	51,718,423	111,664,186	48,250,946	52,313,148

£

Scheme	*Claimant costs paid*[2] 1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
CNST[3]	7,572	53,374	464,800	609,336	3,399,653	35,837,655	28,552,205	49,643,945
ELS[4]	32,849	9,666,656	21,994,957	66,925,508	66,538,960	61,357,279	32,609,855	20,967,172
FRHA[5]	0	2,593,158	2,748,432	1,507,462	768,837	1,246,830	578,499	293,793
Total	40,421	12,313,188	25,208,189	69,042,306	70,707,450	98,441,765	61,740,559	70,904,911

[1] Until 1 April, 2000 excess levels were in place for ELS and until 1 April 2002, excess levels were in place for CNST. NHS trusts could settle claims up to the excess amount without reference or funding from the NHSLA. The figures include sub-excess claims where these were notified to the NHSLA.
[2] Defence costs are accrued quarterly as claims progress whereas claimant bills are paid at conclusion. Therefore, the levels incurred for defence and claimant costs each year are not directly comparable.
[3] CNST claims are those in respect of liabilities occurring on or after 1 April 1995.
[4] ELS claims are those open at 1 April 1996, where the incident pre-dates 1 April 1995.
[5] FRHA claims are pre-April 1996 and are cases against the former RHAs, fully funded by the NHSLA.

Care Homes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish the Department's review of national minimum standards for care homes. [6662]

Mr. Byrne: The Department plans to complete the review of the national minimum standards in 2006. The results will be published after that.

Clinical Trials Directive

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of the European Clinical Trials Directive on the viability of future UK research projects. [3261]

Jane Kennedy: The Government aim to build on the United Kingdom's reputation as an excellent place for clinical research. With partners, it established the UK clinical research collaboration (UKCRC) to co-ordinate major new investment in clinical research infrastructure. The UKCRC includes Government and other public funders of research, as well as industry and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

It is too soon to assess the effect of the European Clinical Trials Directive. The Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1031) came into force on 1 May 2004. They implemented Directive 2001/20/EC in the UK. That Directive required the Commission to publish detailed guidelines on good clinical practice The Commission published a

Good Clinical Practice Directive (2005/28/EC) in April 2005. Member states are required to implement it by January 2006. The Commission has yet to publish related guidelines for non-commercial trials.

The Government are committed to make an assessment as soon as reliable evidence is available. The MHRA acts as the licensing authority for all clinical trials within the scope of the Directive. It has asked the UKCRC to review the evidence to date, consider how to reduce any adverse regulatory impact and agree plans for long-term monitoring. Cancer Research UK and the national clinical research network have undertaken initial assessments of opinion about the effect of the Directive on cancer clinical trials across the UK. Other assessments are being carried out at the European level with the Federation of European Cancer Societies. The UKCRC core team has agreed to bring together findings from these and other studies.

The Government welcome the important contributions that Cancer Research UK and other stakeholders are making in monitoring the implementation of the Clinical Trials Directive, and will consider their findings carefully.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* the Health Protection Agency and *(b)* her Department have been informed of cases of *Clostridium difficile* 027 at hospitals in England other than Stoke Mandeville. [5550]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Cases of *Clostridium difficile* 027 have occurred in Preston, Birmingham, Winchester, Bristol, Romford, Southampton, Truro, Carshalton, High Wycombe, South Tyneside, Newcastle, South Tees, Sunderland, Stoke Mandeville and Exeter. As of 16 June 2005, 75 isolates of *Clostridium difficile* 027 had been received by the Anaerobe Reference Laboratory in Cardiff, being reported to the Health Protection Agency and the Department.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether her Department plans to issue guidance to NHS hospital trusts on the typing of samples from cases of *Clostridium difficile* in order to measure the incidence of *Clostridium difficile* 027; [5734]

(2) if she will make a statement on the laboratory capacity available to the NHS to type samples from cases of *Clostridium difficile*; [5735]

(3) how many laboratories are available to the NHS to type samples from cases of *Clostridium difficile*. [5736]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Health Protection Agency (HPA) have issued guidance to the national health service on the collection of *Clostridium difficile* samples, as part of the mandatory surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* infection. Typing of *Clostridium difficile* 027 is conducted by the Anaerobe Reference Laboratory in Cardiff, which has one the largest collection of *Clostridium difficile* isolates in the world and has also developed this typing scheme. Other NHS laboratories do not have the specialist expertise required.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the outbreak of *Clostridium difficile* at Stoke Mandeville hospital, Buckinghamshire; [4977]

(2) what research her Department has commissioned regarding the outbreak of *Clostridium difficile* at Stoke Mandeville hospital, Buckinghamshire. [4978]

Jane Kennedy: It was announced last week that there would be an independent inquiry into the outbreak of *Clostridium difficile* at Stoke Mandeville hospital. Officials are speaking to the Healthcare Commission about the possible terms of reference and scope for an investigation. Research needs may arise from this inquiry but the first priority remains to ensure that the outbreak at Stoke Mandeville hospital is under control and this process will include epidemiological and laboratory analyses.

Colindale Hospital (Staff Housing)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make an assessment of the requirement for *(a)* key worker housing for NHS staff and *(b)* affordable housing before deciding on (i) the basis for marketing and (ii) the actual sale of the Colindale hospital site once it is surplus to NHS requirements; and if she will make a statement. [5833]

Jane Kennedy: This is a local matter. The land at Colindale hospital is held by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust.

Of the 724 dwellings, 37 per cent. are proposed to be affordable or key worker accommodation representing 49 per cent. of the total number of habitable rooms. The Greater London authority has been consulted and has expressed support due to the affordable and key worker accommodation comprising predominantly family accommodation. The trust is satisfied that this is sufficient to meet their accommodation needs.

Cumberland Infirmary

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action she proposes to take to tackle hygiene failings at the Cumberland Infirmary identified in the recent Patient and Public Forum report; [6277]

(2) which of the conclusions of the Patient and Public Forum investigation into the Cumberland Infirmary she *(a)* accepts and *(b)* does not accept; [6278]

(3) what action she plans to take following the recent Patient and Public Forum investigation into the Cumberland Infirmary. [6279]

Mr. Byrne: This is a matter for the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals National Health Service Trust to whom the recent patient and public involvement forum "Bug Watch" report was submitted. Trusts have a duty to respond to the reports of patient and public involvement forums setting out what action they will take to respond to the recommendations that have been made.

Dementia

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential care places are available in each strategic health authority for people with early onset dementia. [5106]

Mr. Byrne: Data are not available in the form requested. However, information on the number of residential care places for adults with mental health problems aged 18 and over at 31 March 2001 is shown in the table by strategic health authority.

I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that figures for later years were collected by the National Care Standards Commission, and now CSCI, but comparable details are not available.

Number of residential care places for people with mental health problems by age and strategic health authority at 31 March 2001

Strategic health authority	*People with mental health problems aged 18 to 64*	*People with mental health problems aged 65 and over*	*Total*
England	16,770	23,320	40,100
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	400	1,080	1,480
County Durham and Tees Valley	340	860	1,200
Cumbria and Lancashire	520	1,120	1,640
Greater Manchester	900	400	1,300
Cheshire and Merseyside	780	880	1,660
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	700	4,950	5,650
West Yorkshire	510	970	1,480
South Yorkshire	430	1,210	1,640
Shropshire and Staffordshire	180	400	570
Birmingham and the Black Country	720	320	1,040
West Midlands South	220	320	540
Thames Valley	260	200	460
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	890	510	1,400
Kent and Medway	840	1,180	2,020
Surrey and Sussex	1,230	2,580	3,810
Trent	710	450	1,160
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	610	340	940
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	570	1,340	1,910
South West Peninsula	910	740	1,650
Dorset and Somerset	360	660	1,030
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	710	680	1,390
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	300	220	520
Essex	450	80	530
North West London	490	110	590
North Central London	950	340	1,280
North East London	570	180	750
South East London	660	560	1,210
South West London	570	670	1,240

Source:
RA Form A

Dentistry

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the correlation between dental health in five-year-olds and their social-economic grouping, broken down by county in each year since 1997; [4718]

(2) what role fluoridation of water plays in improving dental health; and whether the Government plans to review the level of fluoridation in tap water. [4719]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National dental health surveys are carried out every 10 years; the latest survey is for the year 2003. Results and comparisons with the results of the 1993 survey are available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website at www.statistics.gov.uk/children/dentalhealth/. Results are not available for areas as small as counties because of the small sample size, but regional results for five-year-old children are given in tables 1.5 and 1.6 for the proportion of children with obvious decay experience and for the mean number of teeth with obvious decay experience.

A separate report on this survey has been prepared on social factors and oral health in children, which analyses the United Kingdom figures. This is also available on the ONS website. The report includes analyses of tooth decay by an assessment of deprivation of the school together with analyses by socio-economic status of the household.

The findings of these surveys confirm that there is a strong correlation between dental disease and social and economic deprivation, which we are addressing in connection with implementation of the Government's commitment to reduce health inequalities. The fluoridation of water offers the best prospect for reducing inequalities in oral health. Changes made in the Water Act 2003 to the legislative framework governing fluoridation have made it a realistic option for strategic health authorities to consider for improving the oral health of their populations.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of dental practices in Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust were able to offer an emergency dental appointment within 24 hours in the latest period for which figures are available. [1637]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Hertfordshire Partnership National Health Service Trust is a mental health trust and therefore does not offer any dental services. The Department collects data about dental practices based on primary care trust areas and does not identify individual dental practices.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria her Department has advised primary care trusts to apply for the approval of growth funding to Personal Dental Service applicants. [3282]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* The Department has provided primary care trusts (PCTs) with guidance on the criteria they need to apply in considering proposals for pilot personal dental services (PDS). Guidance has been set out in a step-by-step guide to PDS and augmented with training sessions provided by the Department's national PDS team.

The key elements or criteria of this guidance are:

Each proposal for PDS should be considered in the context of the PCTs assessment of the oral health needs of their population and the level and range of dental services necessary to serve those needs satisfactorily. The assessment of needs and the actions necessary to serve them would usually be set out in the form of a local action plan, agreed with the relevant strategic health authority.

The prime aim of each proposal should be to at least preserve the current level of commitment to the NHS and wherever possible secure additional national health service provision in line with the requirements, which have been identified locally.

The actual level of growth funding appropriate to each PDS application needs to match the NHS provision being proposed and to be affordable within the budget allocated to the PCT for this purpose.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to conduct a new dental clinical academic staff vacancies survey; how much of the funding for dental schools has been allocated for the creation of more clinical academic posts; and what joint action her Department and the Department for Education and Skills are planning concerning recruitment and retention of dental academic staff. [3284]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* On 6 June the Council of the Heads of Medical Schools and the Council of Heads and Deans of Dental Schools published a joint survey, which shows that there remain vacancies in clinical academic posts. We are embarking upon the biggest programme of investment in dental education since the inception of the national health service. Additional recurring funding rising to £29 million by 2010–11 has been allocated to provide for 170 additional undergraduate training places from October 2005. The expansion will be supported by new capital investment of £20 million in each of the four years 2005–06 to 2008–09. It will be for the dental schools to decide how to use these funds, but there is no doubt that this additional investment in the dental schools will improve the working environment and career prospects of dental academics.

The joint Department of Health/Department of Education and Skills Strategic Learning and Research Advisory (StLaR) Group for Health and Social Care has overseen production of a human resources plan project for the educator and researcher workforce across all professions in health and social care. A project board has been established which includes representatives of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the university and service sector. The board's remit includes the identification and implementation of measures to improve all aspects of academic careers for medically and dentally-qualified researchers and educationalists.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Polish dentists who have been recruited by *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* Methods Consulting, have subsequently returned home. [3285]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 June 2005]:* Based on returns received from strategic health authorities at the end of April, primary care trusts have locally recruited nine dentists from Poland. The Department do not hold figures of the numbers of those dentists who have subsequently returned to Poland.

114 dentists, recruited by Methods Consulting on behalf of the Department, have started work in England. Of these, one has subsequently returned to Poland.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average income of NHS dentists in London in each year since 1997. [5358]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average general dental service (GDS) gross fee per dentist in the London area since 1996–97 are shown in the tables.

Numbers of dentists with open GDS contracts

		As at end March 2005				
Contract health body code	*Contract health body name*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
5A4	Havering	85	90	98	100	105
5A5	Kingston	65	69	71	72	77
5A7	Bromley	145	137	140	148	147
5A8	Greenwich	95	96	95	103	104
5A9	Barnet	186	185	189	200	199
SAT	Hillingdon	106	108	111	115	119
5C1	Enfield	115	117	118	128	133
5C2	Barking and Dagenham	49	54	54	58	57
5C3	City and Hackney	88	92	95	84	86
5C4	Tower Hamlets	72	69	66	64	74
5C5	Newham	78	79	92	93	97
5C9	Haringey Teaching	124	126	129	129	125
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	116	139	146	157	141
5HX	Ealing	198	222	225	235	194
5HY	Hounslow	137	150	158	161	153
5K5	Brent	156	161	175	161	168
5K6	Harrow	103	111	118	122	122
5K7	Camden	153	157	150	164	170
5K8	Islington	89	98	100	113	133
5K9	Croydon	162	177	175	171	181
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea	71	82	88	87	87
5LC	Westminster	190	211	215	220	211
5LD	Lambeth	114	128	119	131	126

Numbers of dentists with open GDS contracts

Contract health body code	Contract health body name	As at end March 2005 1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
5LE	Southwark	100	95	95	99	99
5LF	Lewisham	105	110	105	113	117
5LG	Wandsworth	146	156	166	172	167
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	98	99	105	106	104
5M7	Sutton and Merton	174	169	178	187	191
5NA	Redbridge	107	112	117	133	140
5NC	Waltham Forest	83	86	94	98	90
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	91	87	89	91	89
Total		3,601	3,772	3,876	4,015	4,006

Contract health body code	Contract health body name	2002	2003	2004	2005
5A4	Havering	109	107	114	117
5A5	Kingston	73	75	77	81
5A7	Bromley	149	157	169	165
5A8	Greenwich	102	104	114	111
5A9	Barnet	208	212	207	205
SAT	Hillingdon	119	125	125	122
5C1	Enfield	134	141	151	152
5C2	Barking and Dagenham	57	54	56	59
5C3	City and Hackney	81	80	87	85
5C4	Tower Hamlets	69	78	89	92
5C5	Newham	91	92	98	95
5C9	Haringey Teaching	124	134	146	144
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	156	140	146	148
5HX	Ealing	202	187	189	173
SHY	Hounslow	160	138	145	120
5K5	Brent	167	175	166	166
5K6	Harrow	126	124	127	131
5K7	Camden	165	155	165	160
5K8	Islington	127	112	117	118
5K9	Croydon	180	176	186	193
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea	83	78	78	79
5LC	Westminster	207	192	185	187
5LD	Lambeth	123	117	117	123
5LE	Southwark	98	95	88	96
5LF	Lewisham	124	120	126	124
5LG	Wandsworth	170	150	155	149
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	109	110	111	114
5M7	Sutton and Merton	198	197	191	183
SNA	Redbridge	141	139	142	146
5NC	Waltham Forest	89	92	98	102
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	86	86	90	93
Total		4,027	3,942	4,055	4,033

Year end March Average GDS gross fee per London dentist 1997 to 2005

Year end March	Number of GDS dentists	GDS gross fees (£)	Ave fee per dentist (£)
1996–97	3,601	198,076,292	55,006
1997–98	3,772	200,461,816	53,145
1998–99	3,876	211,359,763	54,530
1999–2000	4,015	216,653,251	53,961
2000–01	4,006	229,052,591	57,177
2001–02	4,027	235,624,063	58,511
2002–03	3,942	242,537,032	61,526
2003–04	4,055	254,448,442	62,749
2004–05	4,033	252,320,728	62,564

Notes:

1. The figures are based on the numbers of dentists with open GDS contract.

2. GDS gross fees cover a dentist's individual earnings as well as their practice expenses.

3. The dentists include principals, assistants and trainees.

4. A dentist will be counted more than once if he/she works in more than one PCT.

5. Prison contracts have not been included in this analysis.

6. In view of the boundary changes from health authorities to PCTs in 2002 the areas have been defined using practice postcodes.

7. The figures provide a snapshot of the number of individual dentists with an open contract at 31 March.

8. A dentist with a GDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses.

9. The Dental Practice Board has no information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists.

10. Care should be taken when analysing this data due to dentists changing contracts from GDS to PDS, particularly the later years.

11. The earnings figures are based on whatever the definition of London was at the time, in particular the earlier figures are based on Health Authority boundaries.

12. Dentist numbers are on a headcount basis—no estimate of whole-time equivalent is available.

Old health authorities used to define London
QAP Barking and HaveringQAQ Barnet
QAA Bexley and Greenwich
QAR Brent and Harrow
QAC Bromley
QAT Camden and Islington
QAD Croydon
QAV Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow
QAW East London and The City
QA4 Enfield and Haringey

QA2 Hillingdon
QA3 Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster
QAH Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham
QAG Kingston and Richmond
QAJ Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth
A5 Redbridge and Waltham Forest

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults living in the Portsmouth area are registered with an NHS dentist; and what the figures were in each of the previous four years. [6003]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

Number of adult and child national health service dental registrations in Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust as a percentage of population[1], as at 30 September

	Percentage		
	Adult	*Child*	*All*
2001	49	66	53
2002	49	65	52
2003	50	68	54
2004[2]	49	69	53

[1] Residents estimates based on 2001 census.

[2] 2003 resident estimates based on 2001 census.

Sources:

Dental Practice Board.

Office for National Statistics.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS dentists have been employed in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [4799]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on full-time equivalent national health service dentists is not available as dentists are able to vary the amount of hours they work and their NHS commitment. Many dentists do some private work.

The number of dentists doing NHS work in the Hornsey and Wood Green constituency in each of the last five years is shown in the table.

As at 31 December each year	*Number*
2000	81
2001	83
2002	88
2003	93
2004	89

This data come from the Dental Practice Board and relate to the number of dentists working in the general dental service and personal dental service and relate to dentists whose practice address postcode is within the constituency boundary.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have *(a)* left and *(b)* joined the NHS in the Portsmouth area in each of the last five years. [6004]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

General dental service (GDS) and personal dental service (PDS)—number of dentists leaving and joining the national health service in Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at December in the specified years

	Complete leavers	*Complete new entrants*
2000	13	11
2001	7	9
2002	4	9
2003	7	7
2004	5	6

Notes:

1. Complete leaver means that the dentist had an open contract in December of the previous year but no GDS or PDS contract in the PCT in December of the specified year.

2. Complete new entrant means that the dentist had an open contract in December of the specified year but no GDS or PDS contract in the PCT in December of the previous year.

3. The figures are based on GDS and PDS contracts.

4. The dentists include principals, assistants and trainees.

Source:

Dental Practice Board.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists were employed in each primary care trust in North Yorkshire in *(a)* 2002–03, *(b)* 2003–04 and *(c)* 2004–05. [6204]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS)—number of dentists in North Yorkshire primary care trusts (PCTs) as at 31 March each year

Primary care trust	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Craven, Harrogate and Rural District	101	104	106
Hambleton and Richmondshire	50	55	57
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale	67	69	87
Selby and York	127	134	143

Notes:

1. The figures given by PCT include all dentists practising in that area. Some dentists may have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one PCT and therefore they have been counted more than once.

2. Prison contracts have been excluded.

3. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the specified areas.

Source:

Dental Practice Board

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of her Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6269]

Jane Kennedy: No posts from the Department have been relocated to the South East and there are no current plans to do so.

Digital Hearing Aids

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many digital hearing aids *(a)* were fitted in 2004 and *(b)* have been fitted in 2005 in (i) NHS hospitals and (ii) private dispensers who are part of the public-private partnership scheme. [6365]

Mr. Byrne: The numbers of digital hearing aids fitted are shown in the table.

Where fitted	*2004*	*2005*
National health service hospitals	270,000	[1]60,000
Private public partnership scheme	14,000	[2]21,000

[1] First quarter only.
[2] To end May.
Source:
Modernising hearing aids services programme.

Drug Rehabilitation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were placed in drug rehabilitation programmes in each London borough since June 2004. [5271]

Jane Kennedy: These data are not yet available. Figures for the period April 2004 to March 2005 will be published in the autumn. Data for the period April 2003 to March 2004 can be found on the National Treatment Agency's website at www.nta.nhs.uk/programme/national/docs/Numbers_in_treatment_by_DAT_2003.04.pdf.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned on the *(a)* physical causes and *(b)* treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy; how much public funding has been spent on such research in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [4794]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply the Under-Secretary with responsibility for care services, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) gave on 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 637W to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley).

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to increase the funding for research to find treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and if she will make a statement. [6062]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* The main agency through which the Government support medical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). It is a long-standing and important principle, held to by successive Administrations, that the Government do not prescribe how individual research councils should distribute their resources between competing priorities. In 2003–04, the MRC spent some £2.4 million on research relevant to Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). In March 2004, the former Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Hamilton, North and Bellshill (John Reid), announced an award of £1.6 million over three years to fund gene therapy research for DMD. This is pioneering research and it is not possible to know in advance of completion of the preliminary work already funded by the Department whether this approach is likely to be successful. We look forward to receiving progress reports from the DMD research consortium in due course.

Edgware Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she made of the requirement for *(a)* key worker housing and *(b)* affordable housing before the agreement was reached to sell surplus land at Edgware hospital. [5834]

Jane Kennedy: The responsibility for disposal of land at Edgware hospital lies with Barnet Primary Care Trust and they have taken into account the necessary factors including the availability of key worker or affordable housing and local planning requirements when doing so.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability of digital hearing aids at Edgware hospital. [5832]

Jane Kennedy: Since April 2005, all national health service audiology services in England should be routinely fitting digital hearing aids.

End-of-Life Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 421W, on end-of-life care, what estimate she has made of the amount each primary care trust will receive in each of the next three years; and how many more people she estimates will have access to palliative care. [5601]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The money has been allocated to strategic health authorities, which are working with primary care trusts to determine how they will meet the end of life care needs of the local population. They will jointly determine how the funding is used.

Eye Tests (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many eye tests were conducted in each London health authority in each year since 1997; and how many of them were free to the user. [5281]

Jane Kennedy: The number of all eye tests that were conducted in each London health authority is not collected centrally. However, the total number of sight tests paid for by the national health service in the London strategic health authorities since 1997 is collected centrally and is shown in the table.

Strategic health authority	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
North West London	235,793	223,970	280,634	280,936	286,719	279,395	282,842
North Central London	188,480	180,171	214,174	224,336	215,142	201,480	208,946
North East London	254,802	257,947	299,614	293,362	294,412	283,500	282,725
South East London	189,295	187,477	237,871	248,497	249,720	242,308	240,961

Strategic health authority	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
South West London	155,014	153,930	206,217	206,706	197,540	198,239	202,808
Total	1,023,384	1,003,495	1,238,510	1,253,837	1,243,533	1,204,923	1,218,282

Note:
1. Sight tests cannot be equated to the numbers of patients. Although most people do not come back for a sight test within the year, some patients suffering from medical conditions are advised to have re-examinations sooner.
2. With effect from 1 April 1999, the Government restored eligibility to everyone aged 60 or over regardless of income.
3. Everyone was eligible for free NHS sight tests until 1989, when eligibility was restricted to children, people on low income and benefits and people suffering from or predisposed to eye disease.

Faith Communities

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent consultations have been carried out by her Department with representatives of faith communities; and if she will make a statement. [3229]

Jane Kennedy: The Department consulted with faith communities when producing the national service frameworks for coronary heart disease, diabetes and mental health. The Department and the national health service continue to engage faith communities in public health campaigns such as smoking cessation and organ donation. The Department also maintains close contact with a multi-faith group, which was independently formed by and comprises of representatives of a wide range of faith communities, as part of our commitment to a multi-faith approach to NHS chaplaincy.

Recent departmental consultations with faith communities include the following:

The development of the departmental guidance, "NHS Chaplaincy: Meeting the Religious and Spiritual Needs of Patients and Staff", published in November 2003 and the Department's subsequent review of the central funding arrangements in the summer of 2004. The review was conducted with the participation of the multi-faith group, Hospital Chaplaincies Council, College of Health Care Chaplains, Free Churches Council, South Yorkshire Workforce Development Confederation, Jewish Visitation Committee, Muslim Council of Britain and representatives from the other main world faiths. This report was followed by a further consultation period to allow the faith groups to comment on the recommendations made in the report. The Department and its representatives met regularly with the above groups during this time, culminating with the Department's response, which was published on 23 March 2005.

In November 2003, the Department organised a stakeholder event including representatives of faith communities as part of the national consultation on "Fair for All Personal to You: Choice, Responsiveness and Equity in the NHS". Stakeholders had the opportunity to contribute ideas to choice, responsiveness and equity in the provision of health and social services that are more patient-centred and fair to all.

In the field of mental health, the National Institute for Mental Health in England is collaborating with the Mental Health Foundation on a project exploring the links between spirituality and mental health. The aim of the project is to collate current thinking on the importance of spirituality in mental health, to evaluate the role of faith communities, and to develop and promote good practice.

"Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care", the Government's action plan for tackling inequalities in services for black and minority ethnic communities, was published in January 2005 and was based on wide consultation including representatives of faith groups. It states clearly that everyone who experiences mental ill health is entitled to a safe and clinically effective environment that respects their beliefs, culture, faith, spiritual needs, background and values. Local health agencies are expected to form partnerships with diverse faith communities, providing a forum for discussion about mental health servic[illegible]

Fertility Treatment

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many couples have been funded for *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* more than two cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment by (i) North Hampshire Primary Care Trust and (ii) primary care trusts in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority area in each year since 2000–01; how many couples she expects will receive funding for (A) one and (B) more than one cycle of IVF treatment in 2005–06 from (1) North Hampshire Primary Care Trust and (2) primary care trusts in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority area; if she will make additional resources available to primary care trusts to support the provision of IVF treatment; and if she will make a statement. [6073]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* Information about the number of patients receiving national health service infertility treatment is not collected centrally. The primary responsibility for the provision of these services rests with the NHS at local level. The consideration that primary care trusts give to this is part of the range of factors that they take into account, in liaison with local health bodies and patient groups, in deciding their policy on the provision of treatment services for their locality. This policy will, quite rightly, reflect local health needs and priorities.

NHS Financial Deficits (Eastbourne)

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial deficits were *(a)* at the end of the last financial year and *(b)* for the most recent period for which figures are available of (i) the East Sussex hospitals trust, (ii) the Eastbourne Downs primary care trust and (iii) the county healthcare trust. [4965]

Caroline Flint: The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations are available is 2003–04. The financial position for East Sussex hospitals NHS trust, Eastbourne Downs primary care trust (PCT) and East Sussex county healthcare NHS trust is shown in the following tabl[illegible]

£

Trust	Outturn 2003–04 surplus/(deficit)
East Sussex [illegible] NHS trust	(1,787,000)
Eastbourne [illegible] PCT	(3,533,000)
East Sussex county healthcare NHS trust	(1,025,000)

All figures are from the audited summarisation schedules for 2003–04 for the particular bodies.

Food Standards Agency

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the employees of the Food Standards Agency are *(a)* registered nutritionists and *(b)* registered dieticians. [5291]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) only holds data centrally on the nutrition qualifications of those working in nutrition posts. The FSA employs eight registered public health nutritionists working as nutritionists within its nutrition division. They are registered with the Nutrition Society and represent 16 per cent. of employees in the division. In addition, the FSA's nutrition division includes a further 12 employees with qualifications in nutrition, making a total of 20 nutritionists or 39 per cent. of the division staff. A further registered nutritionist and three others with qualifications in nutrition are employed in the FSA's offices in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Taken all together, these 24 nutritionists represent three per cent. of FSA employees. The FSA does not employ any registered dieticians as dieticians.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN), an advisory committee of independent experts, also provides advice to the FSA and other Government Agencies and Departments on nutrition matters.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the Food Standards Agency Nutrition Strategy. [5296]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency's role, intentions and targets on eating for health are set out in its strategic plan for 2005–10, "Putting consumers first". This was published last December and a copy is available in the Library.

Food Supplements

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 527W, on food labelling/supplements, (1) whether she plans to meet representatives of the health food sector prior to the ruling of the European Court of Justice in relation to the Food Supplements Directive; [4906]

(2) when she next expects to meet Commissioner Kyprianou; what plans she has to discuss with the Commissioner the objectives of the United Kingdom for the future regulation of food supplements; and if she will make a statement; [4907]

(3) whether the preservation of consumer choice remains one of her objectives for the future regulation of food supplements. [4908]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has developed a range of options as part of its strategy in anticipation of the outcome of the ruling from the European Court of Justice (ECJ).

The objectives of the United Kingdom for future regulation of food supplements are dependent on the ruling from the ECJ. When we have the ruling, the Government will consider what further discussions with the European Commissioner are required. Preservation of consumer choice remains one of several objectives in the regulation of food supplements. Other objectives include consumer safety and the promotion of free trade.

General Practice

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on her policy on the future of general practice. [4232]

Mr. Byrne: The Department have already provided a flexible framework for primary care trusts to plan, commission and develop primary care services that offer improved access and capacity for patients and greater responsiveness to the needs of their communities. Improved contractual arrangements for general practice have been agreed with the medical profession and these will be kept under review. The Department remains committed to ensuring that general practitioners can play a full part in commissioning or providing appropriate health services for their patients.

We are proposing to launch a White Paper which will cover the provision of care outside of a secondary care setting including care in general practice. This will be informed by a major consultation with the public, patients, the professions and staff on the future development of hospital services to meet the needs of patients.

General Practitioner Cover

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what minimum standards of cover are laid down by her Department for out-of-hours general practitioner services in England; and how these standards are monitored. [6228]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's aim is to ensure that all patients can be assured of high quality, responsive and consistent out-of-hours services wherever they live. That is why we have put in place the quality requirements, which set minimum standards for the delivery of out-of-hours care. Primary care trusts and strategic health authorities must performance-manage the provider to ensure that these requirements are met.

GM Foods

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has made to the EU Commission on its recent proposals on GM foods. [5189]

Caroline Flint: There have not been any recent European Commission proposals on genetically modified (GM) foods. Regulations controlling GM foods were agreed in 2003 and came into force in April 2004. No representations have been made to the European Commission.

Health Bodies

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had to facilitate the merger of the Commission for Social Care Inspection with the Healthcare Commission; what progress is being made; and if she will make a statement. [5898]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* I have met the chairs of both the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission to discuss the merger and we are now considering how best to take the merger forward in the context of the wider review of regulation in social care and health announced in March.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish her Department's cost assessment of the merger of the Commission for Social Care Inspection with the Healthcare Commission; and if she will make a statement. [5899]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* The merger of the Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection is expected to generate efficiencies and economies of scale, which contribute to the delivery of savings to be attained across all of the Department's arm's length bodies.

A detailed assessment of costs and savings arising out of the merger will be developed as implementation planning progresses.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary legislation will be required to merge the Commission for Social Care Inspection with the Healthcare Commission; and if she will make a statement. [5900]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* Primary legislation will be needed to merge the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated that this merger will take place by 2008.

Health Development Agency

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed by the Health Development Agency in each of the last five years; and in what capacity. [5684]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not held by the Department. The Health Development Agency was an independent body and was abolished on 31 March 2005. On 1 April 2005 its functions were transferred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence who should be contacted directly for this information.

Health Services (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to re-organise primary care trusts in Gloucestershire. [6336]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* There are currently no plans to re-organise primary care trusts (PCTs) in Gloucestershire. PCTs are central to improving the health of their populations by commissioning high quality care. As we implement the next stage of the national health service reforms, including practice based commissioning and streamlining NHS management, PCTs will need to change and develop. These changes need to reflect local circumstances and form part of a structured programme for the NHS as a whole.

Hearing Aids (Hornsey and Wood Green)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people are on the waiting list for a digital hearing aid in Hornsey and Wood Green; and if she will make a statement; [6364]

(2) how long the waiting time is for patients in Hornsey and Wood Green who need a hearing aid; and if she will make a statement; [6366]

(3) what the cost, including the instrument, overhead charges and staff cost is for the NHS to fit a digital hearing aid for a patient with hearing loss in Hornsey and Wood Green; and if she will make a statement. [6368]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Hepatitis C

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies she has undertaken of regional variations in the delivery of treatment for hepatitis C. [3135]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not undertaken any such studies.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will *(a)* mount a hepatitis C awareness campaign and *(b)* develop adequately resourced managed clinical networks to tackle hepatitis C. [4428]

Caroline Flint: The Department launched a hepatitis C awareness campaign for health care professionals in June 2004 and, following that, a public awareness campaign in December 2004; both are on-going.

The "Hepatitis C Strategy for England" proposed the development of managed clinical networks for the assessment and treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis C infection to enable co-ordinated pathways of care. In line with "Shifting the Balance of Power", decisions about networks and their funding are for local determination.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will undertake research on the incidence of hepatitis C among prisoners *(a)* on reception and *(b)* on discharge. [6143]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have no current plans to do so.

Herceptin

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations she has received from Roche relating to the licensing of herceptin for non-terminal breast cancer patients; [4825]

(2) if she will intervene in the licensing process to ensure that herceptin is rapidly approved for NHS treatment in all breast cancer cases. [4837]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Roche has written to the Department to make Ministers aware of recent trial results for herceptin as an adjuvant treatment for early breast cancer. They have informed us that they are working closely with the regulatory authorities about licensing.

The licensing procedure is a confidential matter between the regulatory bodies, European Medicine Agency and United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, and the pharmaceutical company concerned. It involves the detailed evaluation of the application and supporting evidence by experts, known as ""rapporteurs". It would not be appropriate for the Department to intervene in this process.

When applying for a licence a company can ask the regulatory bodies for an expedited assessment if there is an urgent need in patients which is unmet by any other treatments. Information regarding the progress of individual applications for license is commercially sensitive and, as such, is not available to the Department.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of breast cancer patients who would benefit from herceptin but for whom it cannot be prescribed until the product is licensed for non-terminal patients. [4838]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not yet made any firm estimates of the number of breast cancer patients who would benefit from herceptin but for whom it cannot be prescribed until the product is licensed for non-terminal patients.

The Department has asked Professor Mike Richards, the national cancer director, to consider the issues surrounding the introduction of herceptin for the treatment of early breast cancer across the national health service, including the number of patients who would benefit.

The Department of Health is also urgently considering referring herceptin for the treatment of early breast cancer to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for appraisal.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to support the fast-tracking of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraisal for the use of Herceptin to treat early-stage breast cancer HER2-positive women. [5821]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Herceptin is not yet licensed for early-stage breast cancer in England and cannot be considered by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence until it receives its license.

Hospital Acquired Infections

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to publish data collected under the MRSA bacteraemia mandatory surveillance scheme broken down by *(a)* hospital department and *(b)* specialism when the enhanced surveillance scheme becomes operational. [5590]

Jane Kennedy: An enhanced surveillance system for methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteraemias is being piloted and this includes recording the department or specialism within the trust where the patient was being treated when the infection was identified. If successful, this system will be rolled out to all acute trusts and these data will form part of our routine publication.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the rules that govern the reporting, collating and publishing of information from hospital trusts about cases of *Clostridium difficile*. [5040]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* The Department introduced mandatory surveillance for *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea in 2004. The first results from this will be published in the summer. The Health Protection Agency also has a voluntary reporting system and the data from this is already routinely published on their website.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the results of the user survey of the MRSA bacteraemia mandatory surveillance scheme will be published. [5604]

Jane Kennedy: The results of the user survey of the methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus MRSA bacteraemia mandatory surveillance scheme are expected to be published in a peer reviewed journal in the summer.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cases of MRSA there were and *(b)* deaths were caused by MRSA in care homes in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [5896]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* The number of cases of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in care homes is not collected centrally.

The number of death certificates mentioning MRSA by place of death is published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)[1]. The latest year for which figures are available is 2003. Care homes are not separately identified at death registration. The table shows the numbers of deaths which occurred in nursing and residential homes in England and Wales where MRSA was mentioned on the death certificate for the calendar years 2001 to 2003.

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C., Lamagni T.L., Crowcroft N.S., Duckworth G. and Rooney C. (2004) Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993–2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15–22.

Number of deaths mentioning MRSA in nursing[1] and residential[2] homes, England and Wales, 2001–2003[3]

	Nursing homes	*Residential homes*	*Nursing and residential homes*
2001	41	12	53
2002	42	11	53
2003	51	19	70

Notes:

[1] Includes national health service and non-NHS nursing homes.

[2] Includes private residential homes and local authority residential homes.

[3] Data are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish the results of the mandatory surveillance scheme for MRSA bacteraemia for the period between October 2004 and March 2005. [5603]

Jane Kennedy: The results of the full fourth year from the mandatory surveillance scheme, for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemias, were published by individual named trusts on the Department's website on the 23 June 2005 at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/40/15/04114015.pdf.

National and regional information will be published on the Health Protection Agency's website.

Hospital Isolation Facilities

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to audit the adequacy of isolation facilities within NHS hospitals. [5612]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has no plans to audit isolation facilities within national health service hospitals. It is for the strategic health authorities to ensure appropriate provision based on their local needs.

Hospital Workers (Drug Dependency)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support is available to hospital workers who become addicted to drugs; [6212]

(2) whether the Government plan to increase the support available to hospital workers who become addicted to drugs. [6213]

Mr. Byrne: The Department issued guidance, "Taking alcohol and other drugs out of the NHS workplace", in February 2001. Earlier this year, the guidance was re-issued as part of the "Management of Health, Safety and Welfare Issues for NHS Staff", by NHS Employers, which provides support to employers.

The guidance recommends that staff who are identified as having a problem, either through self-referral or management action, and who are willing to undertake treatment, should be rehabilitated. The cost of retaining them as useful employees and utilising their knowledge far outweighs the costs of losing them from the national health service.

NHS employers should have policies and support in place to address any problems of drugs and alcohol use among staff. The findings of the recent NHS staff survey report 80 per cent. of staff having access to counselling services.

Hospitals (Shropshire)

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* budget deficit of the RJ and AH Orthopaedic hospital, Gobowen has been in each of the last five years. [2244]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the total income and the retained surplus/(deficit) for the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic hospital national health service trust.

£ thousand

	Total income	*Retained surplus/ (Deficit)*
1999–2000	30,447	Breakeven
2000–01	32,077	Breakeven
2001–02	35,554	9
2002–03	38,271	(792)
2003–04	41,968	(2,314)

Sources:
Audited summarisation schedules of the above trust 1999–2000 to 2003–04.

Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority reports that the trust is planning to reduce the deficit during the current financial year based on a range of measures predominantly linked to delivering increased additional activity.

Inspection fees (Charities)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will reduce inspection fees levied by the Healthcare Commission on small charities offering medical treatments; [5913]

(2) for what reasons inspection fees charged for the Sussex MS Treatment Centre in Southwick, West Sussex, by the Healthcare Commission are due to rise by the amount planned in the period to 2008; [5914]

(3) what the reasons are for the proposed increase of inspection fees charged by the Healthcare Commission to inspect small charitable medical treatment centres over the next three years. [5916]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Government policy is to move to a position of full cost recovery, where the fee income received by inspectorates, such as the Healthcare Commission, matches the costs incurred in carrying out regulatory work. Our intention is that the Healthcare Commission should achieve a position of full cost recovery by 2008 at the latest. The regulatory fee increase for 2005–06, announced in February 2005, was a step in that direction. No decisions have been taken about the level of fees in future years, though the costs of registration and inspection are still higher than the sum collected by the Healthcare Commission in fees.

When the fee levels for 2005–06 were announced in February, my noble Friend Lord Warner, the then Under Secretary wrote to private and voluntary health care providers telling them of the new fees; he also confirmed that the Department would be working with the Healthcare Commission to develop a timetable for the Commission to take on responsibility for fee setting and that we anticipated that the Commission would assume responsibility from April 2006. I understand that in preparation for taking on that responsibility, the Commission has established a programme to look at costs and the different types of providers it regulates so that when it is given the power to set fees, it will have comprehensive information on which to base its approach. The Commission would also consult publicly on any new fee structure.

Intensive Care Provision

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been conducted on comparative survival rates in hospitals with and without intensive care on site. [3995]

Jane Kennedy: The Department is not aware of any research specific to the comparative survival rates in hospitals with and without intensive care on site.

IT Contracts

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* projected cost at the time of tender and *(b)* actual cost at the time of completion was for each IT contract commissioned by her Department in the last five years. [2578]

Jane Kennedy: The information technology contracts commissioned by the Department, with projected costs at the time of tender and the actual cost at time of completion, are shown in the table.

£

Project	*Projected cost*	*Actual cost*
'VISTA'—Oracle financials system	6,130,000	5,633,498
'PAST'—processing of abortion statistics	109,100	137,300
Benchmarking programme	1,168,000	971,000
BT hosting	345,000	306,000
Departmental website hosting	145,000	156,000

The increased actual costs for the PAST project are as a result of additional requirements identified following award of contract. Similarly, the increase in costs for the Departmental website hosting is a reflection of a refining of service and service levels.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in her Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if she will make a statement. [4126]

Jane Kennedy: No central records are kept of laptops provided specifically to previous Ministers and special advisers. However, current Ministers and special advisers have been assigned a laptop each, where they have a requirement for one. In the last financial year, there were six Ministers, three of whom had a requirement and in this financial year, six Ministers, of whom four have laptops. Three special advisers had laptops last year. Two of the three special advisers this year have been allocated a laptop, with potential for a third adviser also to have one. This reflects the situation since 1995 where laptops have been assigned as required.

At present, there are 2,310 laptops within the Department, which are either stand-alone models or configured to access the Department's computer network remotely. This number encompasses the laptops issued to Ministers, special advisers and officials of the Department. The officials include contractors working on behalf of the Department. Records do not show any differentiation between officials and contractors so cannot be identified separately.

The number of laptops is taken from an asset register, which is updated constantly and provides a snapshot figure. Figures from previous years are therefore not available.

The cost of usage in this context is taken to mean the cost of support and maintenance of the laptops by the information technology service provider (ISP). The structure of the ISP charging model means that it is not possible to demonstrate the costs of usage of individual laptops. Their overall charge includes elements covering several services: help desk, incident and problem resolution (including hardware maintenance), second and third line support, and service management charges. It is not simply a case of aggregating the charge and dividing by the number of laptops to produce a yearly cost.

The numbers of laptops lost or stolen and the cost and usage of laptops within the last 10 years are shown in the table.

Financial year	*Laptops lost/ stolen*	*Total cost of laptops (£)*	*Average cost per laptop (£)*
1995–96	11	17,235.00	1,566.80
1996–97	15	24,165.55	1,610.97
1997–98	23	43,098.68	1,873.85
1998–99	19	40,068.70	2,108.87
1999–2000	18	36,260.35	2,014.46
2000–01	23	46,917.62	2,039.89
2001–02	35	62,275.69	1,779.30
2002–03	26	40,997.26	1,576.81
2003–04	34	51,459.53	1,513.51
2004–05	23	32,783.94	1,425.38
Total	227	395,262.32	

Long-Term Residential Care

Mr. Abbess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the change in the number of available long-term care residential places since 1997. [5928]

Mr. Byrne: According to the latest United Kingdom market survey, published in September 2004 by the independent healthcare analysts Laing and Buisson (LB), the level of spare capacity in the care home sector has remained the same over the last three years, at around 10,000 places, despite a fall in the number of care home places. In March 2004, the national average occupancy rate was 92.1 per cent. in private sector care homes, 90.2 per cent. for care homes with nursing; 92.4 per cent. for other care homes.

The LB report shows a net loss of 10,800 care home places. However, the report shows demand has also fallen by about 10,000.

Our policy is that people should be supported to remain living in their own homes, wherever possible.

Malaria

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with malaria in each London health authority in each of the last three years. [5456]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is shown in the table.

*Patient counts—malaria defined as ICD-10 codes between *B50-B54 recorded in primary or any of the secondary diagnosis fields, NHS hospitals in England, 2001–02 to 2003–04*

SHA of residence	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
North West London SHA	179	217	201
North Central London SHA	196	158	184
North East London SHA	308	261	284
South East London SHA	284	309	285
South West London SHA	123	105	114
Total London SHAs	1,090	1,050	1,068

Notes:

Malaria:

Malaria is defined by a primary or secondary diagnosis of:

B50 Plasmodium falciparum malaria

B51 Plasmodium vivax malaria

B52 Plasmodium malariae malaria

B53 Other parasitologically confirmed malaria

B54 Unspecified malaria

Patient counts:

Patient counts are based on the unique patient identifier HESID. This identifier is derived based on patient's date of birth, postcode, sex, local patient identifier and NHS number, using an agreed algorithm. Where data are incomplete, HESID might erroneously link episodes or fail to recognise episodes for the same patient. Care is therefore needed, especially where duplicate records persist in the data. The patient count cannot be summed across a table where patients may have episodes in more than one cell.

Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis):

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Secondary Diagnoses:

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (6 prior to 2002–03) secondary diagnosis fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Ungrossed Data:

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Department of Health

Maternity Services

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she has issued on the provision of maternity services, including HIV treatment to prevent mother to child transmission, to women who do not have leave to remain in the UK. [6111]

Mr. Byrne: Guidance on how to handle the provision of maternity services to women without leave to remain in the United Kingdom is contained in the document, "Implementing the Overseas Visitors Hospital Charging Regulations: Guidance for NHS Trust Hospitals in England", issued to all trusts in April 2004.

In response to a recommendation from the Health Select Committee in its recent report, "New Developments in Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Policy", the existing guidance was re-issued to trust overseas visitors managers on 16 May 2005. This confirmed that, because of the seriousness of potential risks to mother and baby, maternity services should be treated as immediately necessary treatment and provided without delay. This could include HIV treatment if considered clinically appropriate. However, if the patient is an overseas visitor who is not eligible to receive national health service hospital treatment free of charge, then they should be charged for any treatment provided.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the performance of maternity services at Northwick Park hospital. [6180]

Jane Kennedy: The North West London Hospitals National Health Service Trust is actively addressing issues at the maternity unit at Northwick Park hospital. Last year the trust, Brent Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Harrow PCT invited the Healthcare Commission to help the Trust with improvements. In April 2005, the Department, on the recommendation of the Healthcare Commission, introduced special measures at the unit to provide additional resource and external clinical support to accelerate the improvement programme.

The trust welcomed these measures and has been progressing with its action plan, which is based on the draft Healthcare Commission report and the requirements of the special measures. While there is further work to be done, including completing the refurbishment of the unit in December 2005, the trust and North West London Strategic Health Authority are confident that good progress is being made.

Medical Staff

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to ensure *(a)* doctors and *(b)* dentists are not intoxicated while at work; and what procedure is followed if a doctor or dentist is found to be intoxicated while on duty. [5399]

Mr. Byrne: Every national health service employer has a code of conduct or staff rules, which sets out acceptable standards of conduct and behaviour expected of all its employees. Breaches of these rules are considered to be misconduct. Misconduct can cover a wide range of behaviour and be classified in a number of ways.

The Department issued guidance, "Taking alcohol and other drugs out of the NHS workplace" in February 2001. Earlier this year the guidance was re-issued as part of the "Management of Health, Safety and Welfare Issues for NHS Staff" by NHS Employers, who provide support to employers.

The guidance recommends that staff who are identified as having a problem, either through self-referral or management action, and who are willing to undertake treatment, should be rehabilitated. The cost of retaining them as useful employees and utilising their knowledge far outweighs the costs of losing them from the NHS.

NHS employers should have policies and support in place to address any problems of drugs and alcohol use among staff. The findings of the recent NHS staff survey report showed 80 per cent. of staff having access to counselling services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for support for doctors and other clinical staff who may be abusing drugs or alcohol. [5599]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend, the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz), today.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role the *(a)* Healthcare Commission and *(b)* Commission for Social Care Inspection will play in monitoring compliance with the codes of practice of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. [4809]

Mr. Byrne: The Healthcare Commission works to improve standards in both national health service and independent sector organisations and regulates the independent healthcare sector through registration and inspection. The Commission for Social Care Inspection works to improve standards in social care provision and regulates services relating to both adults and to children, through registration and inspection.

It will be important for health and social care statutory agencies to take account of the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act in their work once the Act is implemented, in order to ensure they are performing effectively and, in certain circumstances, lawfully.

The Commissions will take this into account in their assessment of standards and performance by the statutory services they inspect.

Officials involved in implementing the Mental Capacity Act have held early discussions with both Commissions about the implications of the Act for their operations, and will continue to do so as implementation proceeds.

Mental Health Wards (Safety)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance her Department provides to mental health wards to improve *(a)* staff, *(b)* patient and *(c)* visitor safety; [5993]

(2) what plans she has to improve the safety of *(a)* patients and *(b)* staff within mental health wards. [5998]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) published guidance on "Developing Positive Practice to Support the Safe and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence in Mental Health In-patient Settings" in February 2004.

The Department also commissioned the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop guidelines on "The short-term management of disturbed or violent behaviour in in-patient psychiatric settings and emergency departments", which was published in February 2005.

In 2004, a national advisory and consultancy service was jointly established by NIMHE and the National Patient Safety Agency to support frontline services and a cross-government group is developing proposals for national accreditation and regulation of trainers and training programmes on the recognition, prevention and management of violence.

The NHS Security Management Service, along with NIMHE, has developed a training syllabus on non-physical intervention techniques for staff working in the mental health and learning disability environment, which, following trials in the summer, is envisaged to be implemented throughout the NHS. This syllabus includes de-escalation techniques and cultural awareness sessions with the aim of giving staff the skills required to be able to recognise, prevent, de-escalate and manage potentially violent situations.

The Department has issued additional directions and guidance regarding the safety and security at Ashworth, Broadmoor and Rampton Hospitals, which can be found on the Department's website.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff members were attacked with weapons in mental health wards in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [5994]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the numbers of staff that have been attacked with weapons in mental health wards in 2002, 2003 or 2004 has not been collected centrally.

In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against national health service staff.

In November 2003, a comprehensive range of measures were introduced to tackle incidences of violence against NHS staff, both proactively and reactively. The NHS SMS has begun a programme of work to identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem of violence against NHS staff. Accurate information concerning physical assaults against NHS staff is expected to be available from summer 2005.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy is on whether every mental health ward in England should have access to a psychiatric intensive care unit. [5996]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As stated in the national service framework for mental health (1999), each local health and social care community needs to establish a balance of supported places, hospital beds, and home treatment, which should encompass intensive care beds for people needing a short period of intensive intervention and observation.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes the Department plans to make to the *(a)* recruitment of agency staff in mental health wards and *(b)* provision of entertainment and activities in mental health wards, following the publication of the Healthcare Commission's National Audit on Violence in mental health and learning disability services. [6030]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will continue to implement the national mental health workforce strategy (2004) in order to increase the numbers of staff working in mental health settings and develop their skills further. We will also continue to encourage service providers to widen the skills mix by supplementing the existing professional roles with new ones such as support, time and recovery workers. The Department will continue to support initiatives to improve the quality of patient care and performance by investing in national health service staff and setting common standards of quality and governance; and achieve better value for money and control over temporary staffing costs through the use of NHS professionals and agency framework agreements. The ongoing review of mental

health nursing is also considering the use of agency nursing staff and a report is expected to be published next year.

The national service framework for mental health (1999) and the mental health policy implementation guide on adult acute inpatient care (2002) require a flexible range of appropriate therapeutic and recreational resources and activities to be available in mental health inpatient settings. The latter requires the creation and maintenance of a therapeutic activity milieu to include evening and weekend activities and opportunities both on and off the ward which may include educational, social, daily living, artistic, recreational and leisure activities. The national minimum standards for general adult services in psychiatric intensive care units and low secure environments (2002) requires all patients to have access to fresh air and secure external space and space for regular exercise with appropriate supervision.

MRI Scans (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time is for MRI scans in Lancashire. [6307]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally.

MRSA

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding has been allocated to research into MRSA in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [2889]

Jane Kennedy: The main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body, funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Technology.

The MRC does not currently fund meticillin resistant "Staphylococcus" aureus (MRSA) research and has not done so over the last five years. The MRC is, however, supporting a considerable programme of underpinning research that may lead to a greater understanding of MRSA and contribute to practical solutions in the future.

The Department's national research programme spend on projects related to MRSA from 2001–02 to 2005–06 is shown in the table.

	Amount (£ thousand)
2001–02	23
2002–03	10
2003–04	267
2004–05	439
2005–06[1]	[2]504

[1] The allocation for 2005–06 includes part of the cost of a three-year project designed to evaluate the clinical value of rapid diagnostic testing for MRSA that is due to start in July. The project is being funded from the £3 million provided for a research programme on healthcare associated infections that was announced at the time of the publication of the Department's report "Winning Ways—working together to reduce healthcare associated infection in England".
[2] Forecast expenditure.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects, including a number concerned with MRSA, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

MS Treatment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding her Department provides to charitable MS treatment facilities in *(a)* Sussex and *(b)* England. [5905]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* We provide funding for national multiple sclerosis charities. Individual multiple sclerosis treatment facilities receive funding from the fees they charge on NHS patient referrals.

National Blood Service

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being made to increase the availability of *(a)* B negative, *(b)* AB positive and *(c)* AB negative blood groups in the National Blood Service blood banks. [5388]

Caroline Flint: The National Blood Service (NBS) is continually working to maintain blood stocks, through a range of marketing and communication techniques. For example, on 14 June 2005, the NBS hosted World Blood Donor Day at eight events across the country, which celebrated the lives that have been saved by the generous donation of blood from donors. World Blood Donor Day was an opportunity to thank blood donors and raise awareness of the constant need for blood and blood donors.

NBS blood stocks are currently good. The table shows NBS's red cell stocks as at 17 June 2005.

Red cell stocks	*Number of validated units*	*Equivalent number of days supply*
Total red blood cell stocks	47,101	7.39
B negative red blood cell stocks	528	4.15
AB positive red blood cell stocks	1,332	10.11
AB negative red blood cell stocks	165	3.93

In addition to NBS stocks, each hospital blood bank will keep an appropriate stock of blood.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were employed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in each of the last five years; and in what capacity; [5685]

(2) how many people are employed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and in what capacity. [5688]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not held by the Department.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department issues to NHS trusts relating to the provision of treatment *(a)* prior to and *(b)* during a National Institute for Clinical Excellence appraisal. [4835]

Jane Kennedy: In 1999, the Department issued Health Service Circular 1999/176, which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not yet been issued. These arrangements should include an assessment of the available evidence.

NHS Direct

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to NHS Direct about access to an NHS dentist there were in each month since January 2004 in England, broken down by *(a)* emergency, *(b)* urgent, *(c)* routine and *(d)* other calls. [5175]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Calls to NHS Direct about access to a national health service dentist in each month since January 2004 by emergency, urgent, routine and other are shown in the table.

NHS Direct dental calls by type for January 2004 to April 2005

	Total	Emergency	Urgent	Routine[1]	Other (not known)
January 2004	19,702	1,462	3,613	12,726	1,901
February 2004	18,258	1,575	3,653	11,312	1,718
March 2004	19,330	1,392	3,503	12,506	1,929
April 2004	16,383	1,395	2,680	10,559	1,749
May 2004	16,202	1,762	3,949	8,701	1,790
October 2004	23,850	2,649	4,431	14,426	2,344
November 2004	23,117	2,158	4,059	14,035	2,865
December 2004	19,550	2,603	4,602	10,206	2,139
January 2005	20,440	2,020	3,215	12,734	2,471
February 2005	17,224	1,619	2,342	11,584	1,679
March 2005	17,547	1,725	2,739	11,318	1,765
April 2005	19,753	1,845	2,890	12,844	2,174

[1] Routine includes calls requesting routine information only about where to find a dentist and calls requesting routine dental health advice and information about where to find a dentist.

Note:
Data for June to September 2004 is not available.

NHS Staff Assaults

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* other NHS employees have been the victims of offences of violence at work in each of the last 10 years. [4943]

Jane Kennedy: Information on assaults against national health service staff by occupational grouping has not been collated centrally.

In April 2003, the NHS security management service was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. In November 2003, a new national reporting system for physical assaults against NHS staff was introduced. Information concerning physical assaults against NHS staff is expected to be available from summer 2005.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* consultants and *(d)* auxiliary staff have been victims of violence in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area in each of the last 10 years. [6600]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The incidence of violence against staff at Mid-Essex Hospital is not available in the format requested or for the past 10 years.

However, the table shows figures from the violence, accidents and harassment survey (VAH) for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03. These are figures for Mid-Essex Hospital National Health Service Trust as a whole and cannot be broken down by staff groups. The VAH survey is no longer collected so these figures are the latest available.

Number of reported violent incidents against NHS staff in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust for each specified period

Mid-Essex Hospital Trust (RQ8)	Number
2000–01	94
2001–02	72
2002–03	171

Notes:
Figures are for financial years 1 April to 31 March
Source:
Survey of Violence, Accidents and Harassments in the NHS

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on meeting targets set for reducing incidents of violence against NHS staff. [5783]

Jane Kennedy: In November 2003, a comprehensive range of measures were introduced to tackle incidences of violence against national health service staff, both proactively and reactively. The NHS Security Management Service has begun a programme of work to identify the true nature, scale and extent of the problem of violence against NHS staff. Once this work is completed meaningful and achievable targets for delivering a secure environment for NHS staff will be set.

Nutrition

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice and guidance her Department has issued on core education and training in respect of nutrition and malnutrition for *(a)* health and social care professionals and *(b)* health and social care workers involved in putting the new Unified Assessment procedures into practice at bands two and three of Agenda for Change or equivalent. [5231]

Mr. Byrne: For health and social care professionals it is the responsibility of the appropriate regulatory bodies to set standards for the pre-registration training of doctors, nurses, social workers and other healthcare professionals and approve the education institutions that provide the training and determine the curricula.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service. The post-qualification framework for social workers has been reviewed by the General

Social Care Council and new arrangements for post qualification awards will come into force in September 2007.

For health and social care workers national occupational standards set out the skills, knowledge and values required and are used as benchmarks for national vocational qualifications. Joint health and social care national occupational standards contain specific standards on meeting nutritional needs.

It is the responsibility of social care service providers and NHS trusts to ensure that their employees are suitably qualified and competent.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what standards on meeting nutritional needs are included within Health and Social Care National Occupational Standards; and whether these standards are evidence-based. [5301]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently no evidence-based standards on meeting nutritional needs included within health and social care national occupational standards. However, the Department is developing a series of evidence and consensus-based guidelines relevant to occupational health practice as part of the redevelopment of NHS Plus as outlined in chapter seven, "Work and Health" of the White Paper, Choosing Health—Making healthy choices easier. The aim of this is both to increase the quality of NHS Plus services and to develop occupational health services in the national health service. These guidelines are collated on the evidence-based guideline section of the NHS plus website at: www.nhsplus.nhs.uk.

In addition, the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), in a joint collaboration between the Centre for Clinical Practice and the Centre for Public Health Excellence, formerly the Health Development Agency, is developing a clinical guideline for the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children. This is expected to be issued in February 2007.

Orthopaedic Prosthesis

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely effect the standardisation of orthopaedic prosthesis will have on *(a)* the quality of life of affected patients in the West Hertfordshire Hospital and *(b)* patient choice; and if she will make a statement. [5101]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no plans for the standardisation of orthopaedic prosthesis. However, the National Joint Registry (NJS) was established in April 2003 to collect information on total hip and knee replacement operations from hospitals in England and Wales. Both the national health service and independent health care sector are included. The NJR will enable surgeons, in discussion with patients, to agree which is the most appropriate prosthetic for individual patients needs.

NJR participation is not mandatory although trusts are exhorted to comply. The level of compliance is improving and currently stands at 98.7 per cent. in both the NHS and independent hospitals. The NJR steering group became an advisory non-departmental public body (ANDPB) in January 2005. The NJR steering group is reviewing the data collected to ensure the NJR can become a powerful clinical audit tool.

We are committed to giving patients more choice and control over their health care and services wherever possible. However, it is important to ensure that patients are only offered clinically appropriate choices. The NJR will enable surgeons to use the most appropriate orthopaedic prosthetic for specific patients needs, thus improving the quality of life for the patient post operatively.

Outpatient Waiting Times (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average wait is for an out-patient appointment in Lancashire. [6310]

Mr. Byrne: Information for primary care trusts in Lancashire is shown in the table.

Primary care trust	*Median wait (weeks)*
Blackburn with Darwen	7.00
Morecambe Bay	6.99
Chorley and South Ribble	7.13
West Lancashire	7.69
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	7.11
Burnley Pendle and Rossendale	7.66
Preston	6.93
Fylde	6.86
Wyre	6.76
Blackpool	7.55

Note:
Out-patient commissioner data
Source:
QM08R

Palliative Care

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many palliative care beds are included in the total allocation of high dependency beds in the NHS; [6838]

(2) what the average daily cost per palliative care bed was in the last period for which figures are available; [6839]

(3) how many palliative care beds for terminally ill patients there are in the NHS in England; [6840]

(4) what the total cost for patients in palliative care beds in England was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what percentage that represents of the overall national budget for NHS hospital beds for that year. [6845]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answers 23 June 2005]:* We do not routinely collect the data requested. Information in the Hospice Directory 2005, published by Hospice Information, states that there are 488 beds in national health service palliative care adult inpatient units.

There were 1,426 high dependency beds in the NHS on 13 January 2005—the latest census date. We do not collect data on how many of these are palliative care beds.

Patient Records

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Nationwide Clearing Service records pertaining to individual patients are available to hon. Members. [6842]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The Nationwide Clearing Service (NWCS) provides a means of exchanging and processing data from national health service trusts and primary care trusts to the Department to support national performance management and strategic service planning.

Access to its database is strictly controlled and is available only to approved NHS organisations for individually specified purposes, in compliance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Physiotherapists

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new *(a)* junior and *(b)* senior physiotherapy posts have been created in the last five years in the NHS. [6544]

Mr. Byrne: Information collected by the Department does not break down physiotherapists by grade. Information for the last five years on qualified physiotherapists employed in the national health service is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS): qualified physiotherapists employed in the NHS as at 30 September each year

	full-time equivalents	*headcount*
1997	11,348	14,243
1998	11,709	14,699
1999	12,047	15,070
2000	12,515	15,608
2001	12,992	16,212
2002	13,586	16,885
2003	14,455	17,922
2004	15,564	19,139

Source:
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many senior physiotherapists are in post in the NHS in England; and what the establishment figure is; [6560]

(2) what plans she has to increase the number of junior physiotherapy posts in the NHS in England; and if she will make a statement; [6561]

(3) what assessment she has made of the ability of physiotherapy graduates to obtain employment in the NHS in England; and if she will make a statement. [6571]

Mr. Byrne: Information collected by the Department does not break down physiotherapists by grade. As at September 2004, there were 19,139 physiotherapists employed in the national health service, which represents an increase of 4,896 or 34 per cent. since 1997.

The Department is working closely with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the NHS work force review team and NHS organisations to help junior physiotherapists to find first posts of employment. As a result, of this collaborative work, there is an action plan in place to ensure local managers have access to a range of strategies across recruitment, commissioning and skill mix. It is the responsibility of local NHS employers and strategic health authorities to ensure there are sufficient numbers of physiotherapists to meet service needs.

Primary Care Trust Populations (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the population is of each primary care trust area in Lancashire. [6305]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the table.

Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority—Lancashire primary care trusts	*Population*
Blackburn with Darwen	149,406
Blackpool	140,654
Burnley, Pendle and Rossedale	243,879
Chorley and South Ribble	247,906
Fylde	67,356
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	111,522
Morecambe Bay	307,070
Preston	135,222
West Lancashire	107,146
Wyre	119,530
Total	1,588,691

The data were collected in April 2004 for general practitioner-relevant populations as at April 2003. The data have been constrained to the Office for National Statistics 2003 mid-year population estimates, based on the 2001 census, but do not include armed forces and some prisoners.

Prisons

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the speech given by Dr. Mary Piper on 28 June 2004 at the Institute of Physics on the health needs of prisoners; and what the source was for the research referred to in the speech on rates of Hepatitis C in prison cohorts. [5197]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No transcript exists of Dr. Piper's speech but copies of the slides that accompanied it will be placed in the Library. The research to which Dr. Piper referred was reported in "The Incidence of Hepatitis C Virus Infection and Associated Risk Factors among Scottish Prison Inmates: A Cohort Study" J.K. Champion, A. Taylor, S. Hutchinson, S. Cameron, J. McMenamin, A. Mitchell and D. Goldberg. American Journal of Epidemiology 2004 159: 514–519.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in transferring responsibility for the provision of health care services in prisons to primary care trusts. [3708]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 1 April 2003, funding responsibility for primary health care services in publicly run prisons in England was transferred from the Home Office to the Department. From 1 April 2004, 18 national health service primary care trusts (PCTs) assumed commissioning responsibility for the primary health care services in 34 publicly run prison

establishments in England. From 1 April 2005, PCTs assumed that responsibility for all but three of the remaining publicly run prison establishments in Leicester, Wellingborough and Wormwood Scrubs.

It has been decided not to change the arrangements for commissioning primary health services in the contracted prisons for the present. Contractors continue to have responsibility for the provision of primary care services in their establishments under terms specified in their contracts with the Home Office. However, a full strategic review is being conducted of the health care elements of the contracts to run privately managed prisons to ensure that they bind contractors robustly into the principle of equivalence with the NHS. Work is also under way with the Healthcare Commission to seek to develop a system of inspection of health services in privately managed prisons that is equivalent to that in the NHS.

Psoriatic Arthritis

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the funding announced on 11 May to increase patient centred research will be directed to psoriatic arthritis. [5983]

Mr. Byrne: Decisions on the allocation of the United Kingdom clinical research collaboration funding for experimental medicine will be based on the merits of the individual applications received from researchers.

Report on Social Value Judgments

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on recommendations 6, 7 and 14 of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Report on Social Value Judgments: Guidelines for the Institute and its Advisory Bodies. [4179]

Jane Kennedy: The publication in question is a consultation document issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The consultation closes on 30 June.

Respiratory Complaints

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each London health authority have been admitted to hospital with respiratory problems resulting from pollution in each of the last five years. [6403]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for diagnosis of pollution-related conditions are not routinely recorded.

Sexual Health Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the progress of the review of sexual health services; what grants have been agreed to help relevant patients in *(a)* Redbridge and *(b)* Waltham Forest; and if she will make a statement. [5959]

Jane Kennedy: The two-year national review of genito-urinary medicine (GUM) services began in autumn 2004 and is proceeding according to a roll-out plan, which will ensure that all GUM clinics will be visited. The review is being undertaken on behalf of the Department by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health, who are working closely with sexual health leads in strategic health authorities. Visits to services have commenced in nine strategic health authority areas to date, including services commissioned by Redbridge and Waltham Forest Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).

£300 million new investment over three years has been committed nationally through the public health White Paper to improve sexual health, including £130 million capital and revenue to modernise services. This investment will be part of mainstream allocations and PCTs are responsible for deciding how this money will be used locally. In addition, the Department has provided funding to PCTs to develop services in areas where there is little or no sexual health provision. This includes Waltham Forest, where additional investment has been provided to establish six new clinics covering both specialist and community settings.

Smoking

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will consult on proposals to raise the age of sale for tobacco from 16 years to 18 years as part of the consultation process on the smoke free elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill. [6642]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* Raising the age of sale for tobacco from 16 years to 18 years is opposed by the health lobby and anti-smoking groups like ASH. There is also a lack of good evidence that increasing the age at which tobacco is legally sold has any impact on smoking rates among young people.

For that reason, we have concentrated our effort on ensuring that the existing age limits are effectively enforced. The Choosing Health White Paper set out proposals as follows:

> "we propose that legislation be brought forward to create new powers to ban retailers from selling tobacco products, on a temporary basis, if they repeatedly flout the law. This complements the work already under way to improve proof of age schemes. We intend to support this measure by looking at higher fines and updated guidance for magistrates, along with education for retailers on better compliance with underage sales law. Before introducing these measures, we will consult with local authorities, the retail industry and other key stakeholders".

South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change in funding from the 2005–06 baseline has been determined for South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust for 2006 to 2008. [3965]

Ms Rosie Winterton: South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust will receive allocations of £313.5 million in 2006–07 and £344.3 million in 2007–08. These represent a cash increase of £57.1 million or 19.9 per cent. over the two years.

Stakeholder Consultations (Continuing Care)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 627W, on continuing care (1) what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with

stakeholders in order to produce a national framework for assessment for continuing care; what topics were discussed at each meeting; on what dates these meetings took place; which stakeholders were present; and what further such meetings she plans to hold with stakeholders; [5788]

(2) what representations she has received from organisations on the development of a national framework for the assessment for continuing care. [5789]

Mr. Byrne: Work to produce the national framework for continuing care is on-going, as is stakeholder communication, engagement and involvement.

My hon. Friend the Member for Thanet South (Dr. Ladyman), the former Under-Secretary, met with the ombudsman specifically to discuss continuing care, and the subject will have come up in numerous visits and meetings. I have met with local authority representatives and also with the Social Care Institute for Excellence, the General Social Care Council and Turning Point, amongst others, when the subject of continuing care was raised.

Officials have studied the evidence given to the recent Health Select Committee inquiry on continuing care. Regular meetings take place with staff from the ombudsman's office to ensure their full participation and involvement in the development of the national framework.

Officials held three national meetings on continuing care, on 17 December, 19 January and 4 March, to start to scope the issues that the national framework is to address and gather suggestions for ways forward. These meetings were attended by representatives from the ombudsman's office and representatives from strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and local authorities, including representatives from the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services.

Meetings and/or discussions have also occurred with numerous organisations, members of the public, researchers and academics, including the Royal College of Nursing, Help the Aged, Age Concern, the Alzheimer's Society and the Long Term Medical Conditions Alliance. A stakeholder event is planned in July to share progress and to gain contributions in particular from organisations with patient/service user and carer networks and professional organisations.

An electronic discussion forum has been established for regular communication and through which staff from across the health and social care community and wider stakeholder groups can contribute to specific parts of the framework.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds in Stoke Mandeville Hospital are available for patients with severe neck trauma; and whether beds are reserved for local patients. [6592]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The information is not available in the format requested. Stoke Mandeville Hospital situated in Aylesbury, is part of the Buckinghamshire Hospitals National Health Service Trust in the Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority area. Data are only available on the total number of beds at the hospital trust and not by this speciality.

The Stoke Mandeville Hospital is a national centre for spinal injuries and burns, therefore it accepts patients from anywhere in the United Kingdom as well as overseas patients who are diagnosed as suffering with severe neck trauma. Beds are not reserved for local patients.

Tooth Decay

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in East Yorkshire suffer from (i) tooth decay and (ii) gum disease; and if she will make a statement. [3597]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally. The National Child Dental Health Survey 2003 reported that from a sample of five-year-olds within East Yorkshire Primary Care Trust, 31.3 per cent. had active decay when examined. There is no localised data on gum disease in children.

Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to publish the updated version of the regulatory impact assessment of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. [4909]

Jane Kennedy: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency published an updated partial regulatory impact assessment on 16 June. The assessment forms part of the public consultation (MLX 325) on the implementation of the Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (Directive 2004/24/EC).

Trans Fats

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on trans fats; [5850]

(2) what measures are being taken to advise the public on consumption of trans fats. [5851]

Caroline Flint: The Government are concerned about the possible health effects, in particular on coronary health, from consuming certain fats. As part of delivering commitments in the Choosing Health White Paper of last November, the Government are developing a strategy with stakeholders for tackling intakes of certain fats. There are currently no plans to commission research on the health effects of consuming trans fats as it is known that at high levels, like saturated fats, they raise the type of cholesterol in the blood that increases the risk of coronary heart disease.

The Food Standards Agency has provided information and advice, on its Eatwell website, to consumers about the role of fat in the diet and the possible health effects from consuming high levels of trans fats.

Treatment Overseas (E111 Form)

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* the number of E111 forms held by British citizens before August 2004 and *(b)* the proportion of these covering more than one person; and if she will make a statement. [2356]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Prior to August 2004, issues of form E111 amounted to approximately 3.5 million per annum. However, since long-standing practice had been to issue E111s without a specified end date, it is not possible to say how many valid E111s were held by the public. No information was collected on the proportion of forms issued on a per family basis and thus covering more than one person.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of British citizens who travelled without a valid E111 form in the last year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [2358]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Experience has shown that only a small number of United Kingdom residents travelling to other European Union countries who need treatment do not have valid E111s with them. UK residents not in possession of E111 when treatment is required abroad may apply to the Department of Work and Pensions for one to be sent to them abroad. 12,400 such E111s were issued in 2004–05.

Union Flag

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons her Department did not fly the Union flag from its headquarters for the Queen's Official Birthday. [5408]

Jane Kennedy: I can confirm that the Union flag was flown on Saturday 11 June, as notified by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Consultant Vacancies (Accident and Emergency)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in Lancashire have vacancies for accident and emergency consultants. [6308]

Mr. Byrne: The most recent centrally held information on vacancy rates indicated that in March 2004 there were two vacancies at Morecambe Bay Hospitals National Health Service Trust, which had lasted for three months or more. The trust concerned has been actively trying to fill these posts.

Source:

Health and Social Care Information Centre NHS Vacancy Survey.

Waiting Lists/Times

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the target waiting times are for orthopaedic surgery at Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic hospital, Gobowen, Shropshire for patients resident in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [5436]

Mr. Byrne: Patients registered with a general practitioner in England and patients resident in England who are unregistered or who are registered with a GP in Wales should be treated within the standard maximum waiting time for England. The current maximum standard for all in-patient and day case treatment is nine months. The target maximum waiting time by the end of December 2005 is six months.

Waiting times for patients resident in Wales, unless they are registered with a GP in England, are a matter for the National Assembly for Wales.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on cancer treatment waiting times at the Maidstone Oncology Centre in Kent; [5967]

(2) what plans she has to decrease the number of days patients at Maidstone Oncology Centre wait for cancer treatment; [5968]

(3) if she will take steps to reduce cancer treatment waiting times for hospitals in East Sussex and Kent; [5969]

(4) how many weeks on average patients at Maidstone Oncology Centre have waited for post-operative cancer treatment since 1997. [5971]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells National Health Service Trust, of which the Maidstone Oncology Centre is a part, provides cancer treatment not only to the residents of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells but also to residents in East Sussex. It met the national cancer waiting standards, as at the end of quarter four for 2004–05, as shown in the table.

Standard	*Percentage of standard achieved*
Two weeks wait from general practitioner referral to outpatient appointment	99.9
One month wait from diagnosis to treatment for breast cancer	100
Two month wait from GP referral to treatment of breast cancer	97.1

By the end of 2005, two further waiting times targets will be in place for cancers; a 31-day maximum wait from the date of the decision to treat to the start of treatment and a 62-day maximum wait from urgent GP referral for suspected cancer to the start of treatment.

Walk-in Treatment (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many walk-in treatment centres are planned in Lancashire; and in which districts. [6306]

Mr. Byrne: There are two existing national health service walk-in centres in Lancashire at Blackpool and Skelmersdale. Development of further NHS walk-in centres is a matter for local health communities. The Department has a capital budget for 2005–06 to support such investment and will be discussing with strategic health authorities shortly how best to deploy this money.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 28 June 2005

CABINET OFFICE

Directgov

27. **Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the launch of the Directgov internet portal for Government services. [7323]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Launched in April 2004, Directgov is our flagship digital service, delivered by a partnership of 18 Government departments. Attracting over 1.3 million visits a month, it draws together services from across the public sector, making it easier for people to access information and transact with Government.

Civil Service Bill

28. **Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to introduce legislation on the Civil Service. [7324]

Mr. Hutton: The Government are considering the responses to the consultation. It will make a statement when it has completed its considerations.

National School of Government

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have attended the finance for non-financial managers course run by the National School of Government, broken down by *(a)* year and *(b)* department. [7193]

Mr. Hutton: The National School of Government runs two finance for non-financial managers courses. One for people in the Senior Civil Service and one for people up to Grade 7. The information requested in respect of these two courses has been placed in the Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications have been made to the Gaming Board for casino licences for each quarter since January 2004; what the outcome was of each application; whether applications were subject to separate planning permission applications resulting from a change in use class; and if she will make a statement. [6968]

Mr. Caborn: The Gaming Board considers applications for Certificates of Consent for casinos. Once a Certificate of Consent is issued, operators can then apply to the Licensing Justices for a Gaming Licence.

The table sets out the number of applications for Certificates of Consent that the Gaming Board has received since January 2004, and the current position on these applications. This includes applications for new casinos, and applications where there are significant changes to the ownership or fabric of existing casinos.

Planning permission is not a pre-requisite for an application for a Certificate of Consent, or for a Certificate of Consent to be granted. The following table indicates, according to the Gaming Board's records, whether a planning application was also required in respect of the casino premises.

	Applications received	*Applications determined*	*Planning application required*	*Planning application not required*
January-March 2004	4	4	4	0
April-June 2004	4	[1]3	4	0
July-September 2004	7	5	2	5
October-December 2004	12	9	7	5
January-March 2005	8	[2]4	2	6
April-June 2005[3]	21	0	17	4
Total	56	26	36	20

[1] One application withdrawn.
[2] Two applications withdrawn.
[3] At 17 June 2005.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has held with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the use class of casinos since 1 November 2004; at what level discussions occurred; when discussions took place; and if she will make a statement. [6971]

Mr. Caborn: The Department has had regular contact with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the use class of casinos at both ministerial and official level since 1 November 2004, and will continue to do so.

EU Commission

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1058W, to question 5146, if she will place in the Library *(a)* the submission made to the EU Commission on 9 September 2004 and *(b)* the letter sent to the EU Commission in March. [7534]

Mr. Caborn: In view of current advice from European Commission officials we do not intend to release this documentation into the public domain until the completion of the Commission's Investigation under article 88(2) of the treaty.

Following the closure of the investigation, or if we receive express permission from the Commission before that date, I will make these documents, subject to commercial confidentiality, available to the Library of the House.

Free Television Licences (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in each constituency in Northern Ireland are in receipt of the free television licence for over-75s. [7226]

James Purnell: TV Licensing, who administer free television licences for people aged-75 or over as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, the Northern Ireland Department for Social Development has estimated that the number of benefit units claiming the retirement pension, where at least one person in that unit is aged 75-years or over, in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland, is:

Parliamentary constituency	*Retirement pension benefit units with at least one person aged-75 or over.*
Belfast East	5819
Belfast North	5294
Belfast South	5018
Belfast West	3586
East Antrim	4053
East Londonderry	3952
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	4068
Foyle	3442
Lagan Valley	4790
Mid Ulster	3531
Newry And Armagh	4356
North Antrim	5269
North Down	5517
South Antrim	3986
South Down	4765
Strangford	4707
Upper Bann	4479
West Tyrone	3499
Missing Postcode	1200
Total	81331

Notes:
1. The data source is an un-validated scan of the pension service computer system at 4 June 2005. Not all households in Northern Ireland containing a person aged-75 or over will appear on the scan, since not all pensioners are entitled to the retirement pension.
2. In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed to parliamentary constituencies (PC's) on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated to a PC using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all.

Gaelic Language

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she has taken to implement the undertakings of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in relation to the Gaelic language and if she will ensure that the recommendations of the last Committee of Experts report are adopted. [7015]

James Purnell *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The steps taken by the UK Government to implement the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages are set out in periodic reports. The first such report was published on 1 July 2002 and is available on the Council of Europe website at http://www.coe.int and the second is due to be sent to the Council of Europe on 1 July 2005 and should be available shortly thereafter: copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House. These reports cover my Departmental responsibilities.

The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, based on the findings of the Committee of Experts which evaluated the UK's compliance with the charter, were that the authorities of the United Kingdom facilitate the establishment of a television channel or an equivalent television service in Scottish Gaelic and overcome the shortcomings in Scottish Gaelic radio broadcasting.

Since the charter came into force on 1 July 2001, the Government have brought forward provisions, enacted in the Communications Act 2003, changing the status of the Gaelic broadcasting funding body, now called the Gaelic Media Service (CMS), to allow it for the first time to hold a broadcasting licence. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, has also committed herself to seeking a better deal for Gaelic broadcasting and my Department have been working with all the interested parties to put together a sustainable strategy for Gaelic television. We have also confirmed, in the Green Paper on BBC Charter Review of March 2005, that the BBC will have a key role to play in any future channel. Furthermore, although funding responsibility were devolved to the Scottish Executive as part of the devolution settlement in 1999, my right hon. Friend has offered a one-off contribution of £250,000 from DCMS budgets as part of arrangements for establishing a Gaelic channel.

As for the recommendation related to increasing the coverage of Radio nan Gaidhael, the BBC has greatly increased FM coverage and added satellite and freeview provision; Radio nan Gaidhael is also available globally on the internet.

We believe that these actions continue to demonstrate the UK's commitment to meeting its obligations under the European Charter.

Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has held on a successor scheme to the Heritage Economic Regeneration scheme; and if she will make a statement. [6848]

Mr. Lammy: We have asked English Heritage to work with the Heritage Lottery Fund and other regeneration agencies to explore the scope to rationalise the funding they provide for heritage-led regeneration projects. The aim is to make grants more easily accessible and to ensure best value for money. English Heritage support will continue until any revised arrangement is put in place.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the impact of the Heritage Economic Regeneration scheme with particular reference to *(a)* retention and enhancement of older commercial buildings and *(b)* other commercial improvements; and if she will make a statement. [6850]

Mr. Lammy: English Heritage published its impact assessments of the Heritage Economic Regeneration scheme in Heritage Dividend. The most recent report found that, on average every £10,000 of heritage investment levered in £45,000 match funding from the private and public sector, and led to 55 square metres of improved commercial floor space, one improved

building, one new job and two safeguarded jobs. The reports do not break down funding by type or age of buildings involved.

International Sport (Access Gender Discrimination)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Government's policy regarding support for United Kingdom teams participating in international sports competitions is predicated on the condition that there is no gender discrimination regarding spectators' and supporters' access; and if she will make a statement. [5046]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 16 June 2005]:* No. The Government's policy regarding support for UK teams participating in international sports competitions is not predicated on the condition that there is no gender discrimination regarding spectators' and supporters' access.

However, the Government remain committed to promoting sport for all and equality of access and would encourage the sporting world to adopt similar principles.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of licensed premises she estimates will seek a variation in their current licence provisions under the new agreements under the Licensing Act 2003. [7666]

James Purnell: My Department estimates that 65 per cent. of licensed premises will apply for variations in their current licence provisions. This proportion was published in my Department's Regulatory Impact Assessment on 21 January 2005.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on delaying the requirement for a new alcohol licence for licensed premises under the Licensing Act 2003. [7669]

James Purnell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received a number of representations on this subject, from Members of the House, local authorities and others. However, extending the period for converting existing licences to premises licences or club premises certificates would delay the benefits that will derive from the full implementation of the Act. The second appointed day, when the new licences come into effect, will be November 24.

Television Licence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the amount collected in fines for not having a TV licence was in London in each year since 1997. [5261]

James Purnell: Information on fines collected for television licence evasion is not available. The total fines imposed for offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts of 1949 to 1967, most though not all of which involve television licence evasion, in the Greater London area in each year since 1997 were:

	Fines imposed for offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts (£)
1997	1,333,937
1998	1,434,675
1999	885,493
2000	1,711,340
2001	680,141
2002	1,153,119
2003	804,912

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were prosecuted for not having a television licence in London in each of the last five years. [5311]

James Purnell: The data collected by the Home Office relates to all offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts of 1949 to 1967, most though not all of which involve television licence evasion. The number of people proceeded against in the Greater London area in each of the last five years for which information is available was:

	Proceeded against [1]
1999	10,820
2000	19,669
2001	7,817
2002	13,210
2003	9,461

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

DEFENCE

Absence Without Leave

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 331–32W to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore), on absence without leave, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in the numbers of service personnel going absent without leave since 2000. [6616]

Mr. Touhig: The numbers of those going absent without leave are small when compared with the overall size of the armed forces. There are however no centralized records held to explain the increase in absences.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it remains the Government's policy that two new aircraft carriers will enter service in 2012 and 2015 respectively; and what *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum complement of fixed-wing aircraft each will carry. [5559]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* As set out in the strategic defence review, and confirmed in subsequent policy reviews, it remains our policy to procure two larger, more capable, aircraft carriers to replace the current Invincible-class carriers.

This project (CVF) is in its assessment phase and as such the design parameters for the ships, including the number of aircraft carried, continue to evolve to meet our capability requirements. In-service dates and design parameters will be confirmed when we take the main investment decision.

The target in-service dates remain 2012 and 2015.

Armoured Vehicle Training Services Requirement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Armoured Vehicle Training Services requirement to be in operation with the armed forces. [6710]

Mr. Ingram: No firm dates have been set, however a revised procurement strategy being worked up by the Defence Procurement Agency, as announced on 15 June, will inform our plans to deliver the capability and take advantage of emerging technology and best practice as it develops in the commercial training areas.

Sudan

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* NATO counterparts on assisting the implementation of a no-fly zone over the Darfur region. [6903]

Mr. Ingram: Neither EU nor NATO Defence Ministers have had such discussions. The African Union has not requested assistance in this area.

Dentistry

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of military dental practitioners in each of the services; what their role is in performing preventative check-ups; how often service personnel are required to attend dental check-ups; how many service personnel use private dental practitioners; and whether the costs of private dental check-ups can be reclaimed from military budget lines. [5321]

Mr. Touhig: The role of military dental practitioners is to deliver effective military dentistry that contributes to force generation and enhances operational capability. The aim is to maximise the number of personnel fit for task and to minimise the risk of an episode of dental morbidity.

On operations dental teams are deployed to treat episodes of morbidity and to enable personnel to return to duty as soon as possible. Deployed dental teams are an effective force multiplier.

Service personnel are required to attend for dental check-ups at intervals of between six and 18 months dependent on the individual's dental history and dental risk assessment.

The number of regular Service personnel attending private dental practitioners is not recorded but anecdotally is a very small percentage. The cost of private check-ups and treatment may not be reclaimed from military budget lines.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* dental practitioners and *(b)* dental support staff are employed by each of the services; what their establishment is; and if he will make a statement. [5322]

Mr. Touhig: The number of dental practitioners and dental support staff employed by each of the services and their establishment are as follows (please note that the trained requirement for the Army (and total 'all services') is sourced from the Defence Dental Service establishment for that service):

Trained strength[1] and requirement as at 1 April 2005

Requirement

	Dental practitioners[2,3,4,5,6]	*Dental support staff*[7]
Royal Navy	70	120
Army	120	240
Royal Air Force	80	210
All services	270	570

Strength

	Dental practitioners[8]	*Dental support staff*
Royal Navy	60	120
Army	150	230
Royal Air Force	70	200
All services	280	550

[1] Figures are for trained UK regular forces and therefore exclude untrained personnel, Gurkhas, full time reserve service personnel, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

[2] Requirements for the RN are smoothed.

[3] The Army trained requirement for dentists is sourced from the Defence Dental Service.

[4] Implementation of the Medium Term Workstrand (MTW) 5 has led to a redefined global manpower requirement (GMR) which is effective from 1 April 2005.

[5] Total trained requirement for all services is sourced from the Defence Dental Service.

[6] Dental practitioners may include dentists who are not practising due to being posted on staff appointments and/or fulfilling non-clinical duties.

[7] Dental support staff includes dental technicians, dental surgery assistants and dental support specialists.

[8] Army dental practitioner figures are for officers serving within RADC only and therefore exclude late entry officers and only include ranks of captain and above. Army dental support staff may fill roles in either RAMC, RADC or QARANC.

An establishment review is presently in progress which will reduce the number of dental practitioners and increase dental support staff.

Forces Personnel (Resignations)

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of armed forces personnel who have resigned since 2003 to join private security companies. [6904]

Mr. Touhig: This information is not held centrally. Exit surveys are conducted within the Naval Service and RAF but information on where personnel plan to work after they leave the services is not collected. The Army do not currently run an exit survey, however, the possibility of doing so is now under review.

Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of defence *(a)* hospital and *(b)* medical services in Gibraltar. [6371]

Mr. Touhig: The full spectrum of medical support is, and will continue to be provided to British Forces in Gibraltar. The construction of a new primary and secondary Integrated Health Facility, which will replace the current Royal Naval Hospital and Joint Medical and Dental Unit, is estimated for completion in 2007. We remain committed to providing our entitled personnel with medical services at least equivalent to NHS standards, wherever practicable and possible.

Gulf-war Related Illness

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many claims in respect of Gulf War related illness have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* accepted by the Veterans Agency, Blackpool; and how many claims have been allowed the right of appeal. [7396]

Mr. Touhig: Our records show that as at 31 May 2005,1,484 claims have been accepted and 120 claims rejected in respect of Gulf War related illness. All decisions issued by the Veterans Agency carry a right of appeal.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5124]

Mr. Touhig: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, 1059W, by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Incendiary Weapons (Iraq)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his letter to the hon. Member for Leyton, deposited in the Library, correcting his January parliamentary answer about the use of incendiary weapons in Iraq, how he discovered that his answer was incorrect; when he first discovered that it was incorrect; whether the use of the weapons were in the area of Falluja; whether any civilian settlements were in the area; where the weapons were used; and if he will make a statement. [6232]

Mr. Ingram: On 20 April, my attention was drawn to reports that the US State Department had confirmed the use of MK 77 firebombs in Iraq in 2005, contrary to the answer given to my hon. Friend, the member for Leyton and Wanstead, 11 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 374W. Ministry of Defence officials sought clarification from the Pentagon and I wrote to my hon. Friend as soon as possible after this had been received in June.

Where, and against which targets the weapons were used is a matter for the US authorities.

Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out since the publication of the Rand Europe report on the Joint Strike Fighter to evaluate the steps which have to be taken to secure a final assembly, check out and maintenance and repair unit for this aircraft at BAE Wharton. [6834]

Mr. Ingram: We have a requirement for a Maintenance, Repair and Upgrade capability to provide sovereign support for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) throughout its planned service life. Following on from the Rand study, further investigations are underway between BAES, DTI and MOD, to explore the possible synergy between this and a Final Assembly and Check Out facility based in the UK.

Military Readiness

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the finding of the National Audit Office report Assessing and Reporting Military Readiness, paragraph 2.39, concerning shortages of essential personnel; what estimate he has made of the extent of these shortages; how many units and of which types, are *(a)* facing such shortages and *(b)* under strength; and of how many medical staff his Department is short. [7548]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The current shortages of personnel, by Service, within the areas of undermanning noted in paragraph 2.39 of the National Audit Office report Assessing and reporting Military Readiness, are given as follows. These numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

	Number
Royal Navy and Royal Marines	
Medical personnel (including nurses, surgeons and anaesthetists)	80
Signals and communications personnel	140
Vehicle maintenance technicians	30
Aircrew	140
Engineers:	
Marine	390
Weapons	170
Logisticians	80
Chefs	50
Army	
Medical Personnel (including nurses, surgeons and anaesthetists)	630
Intelligence personnel	440
Vehicle maintenance technicians	380
Engineers	1,330
Logisticians	920
Chefs	310
Royal Air Force	
Medical personnel (including nurses, surgeons and anaesthetists)	80
Vehicle maintenance technicians	30
Aircrew	140
Weapon systems operators	120
Engineers	90
Logisticians	20

Attributing shortages to individual units could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. The deficits are managed as equitably as possible by the respective manning agencies to minimise the operational impact.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times in each year since 1997 the military readiness traffic light reporting system has shown a *(a)* yellow and *(b)* red state of readiness for each service. [7893]

Mr. Ingram: The military readiness reporting system has been evolving since it was first included in the Ministry of Defence's Public Service Agreement following the 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review. Performance against PSA readiness targets has been reported to Parliament since 1999–2000 in the Ministry of Defence's Annual Performance Report, which from 2002–2003 has been included in the Annual Report and Accounts. The number of critical weaknesses which would make it impossible to deploy a unit has also been reported publicly in our quarterly PSA reports available on the MOD website since December 2003.

Ministry of Defence Police (Royal Mint Investigation)

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome was of the investigation commenced in July 2002 at the Royal Mint Llantrisant; and on which Government agency's behalf his Department's police handled the case. [6543]

Mr. Touhig: The police investigations at the Royal Mint have now been completed. One person has been charged with a number of offences and is due to appear at Southwark Crown court on 12 September 2005. A second person is the subject of a request for extradition and a file has been forwarded to the Director of Prosecutions, Gambia. The Gambian authorities have issued a judicial order for the arrest of the individual.

The Chief Executive of the Royal Mint Llantrisant launched an internal investigation and reported findings to HM Treasury, who brought in the Serious Fraud Office (SFO). However, when the SFO became aware that the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) provide a policing service to the Royal Mint, it was agreed by both organisations that the MDP would be the most appropriate police force to assist with the inquiry, due regard having been taken of the geographical spread of the required inquiries within the UK and abroad.

MRSA

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* advice is given on, and *(b)* precautions are taken against the spread of MRSA in military ambulances; and if he will make a statement. [6700]

Mr. Touhig: The majority of secondary care for armed forces personnel is provided at Ministry of Defence Hospital Units within host NHS hospitals. Ambulances used for transfer fall under the local health authority and will adhere to the procedures and precautions laid down by the local health authority.

Some military ambulances are retained by armed forces medical centres. Guidelines to prevent the spread of infection are provided at a single Service level. These include staff protection and ambulance disinfection. The guidelines are in line with the current procedures recommended by the local health authorities.

Ambulances are also used by the armed forces for transfer of a small number of patients in Cyprus and Gibraltar. These ambulances follow the same infection control procedures as the UK based medical centres with staff referring to the local infection control manuals supplied by the single Service Infection Control Teams in the UK. A local infection control nurse is on hand to provide immediate support and advice where necessary.

MRSA has not been identified as a major problem for troops returning from military operations abroad. Nevertheless, when operating in field conditions, staff are instructed on the importance of preventing the spread of any infection and are given specific guidelines to follow to prevent the spread of infection relevant to the particular theatre. Ambulances on operations are cleaned as per single Service guidelines on the decontamination of equipment. All ambulances should be thoroughly cleaned between uses.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of MRSA have been recorded in his Department's hospitals since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [6701]

Mr. Touhig: The majority of secondary care for armed forces personnel is now provided at Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs) which are based within NHS trust hospitals around the UK. MRSA numbers are now monitored by the infection control teams of each NHS trust under the direction of a consultant microbiologist, not the MOD. The MOD therefore does not hold these records.

Royal Hospital Haslar (RHH) is currently an exception to this. Since April 2001 it has been run in partnership with Portsmouth Hospital Trust. The number of cases of MRSA at RHH are only available from the year 2000. Due to reasons of medical confidentiality, numbers are not broken down below five.

Royal Hospital Haslar

	Cases
2000	Less than 5
2001	22
2002	66
2003	34
2004	26
2005	20 (to date)

The MOD currently has two military hospitals at its permanent overseas bases in Cyprus and Gibraltar. Records for these bases are only held for the last five years and less than five cases of MRSA have been recorded in Cyprus, and none in Gibraltar. Those cases recorded have been transferred in from other hospitals and no new cases of MRSA have been identified in either hospital in this period.

Portsmouth Nuclear Accident Plan

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what enhancements to the Portsmouth nuclear accident plan are necessary to cover vessels powered by nuclear reactors manoeuvring around the City of Portsmouth at the same time during Trafalgar 200 at the Review of the Fleet on 28 June; and if he will make a statement. [6796]

Mr. Ingram: Safety of visits to the Dockyard Port of Portsmouth (DPP) by Nuclear Powered Warships (NPW's) is assured by adherence to the Nuclear Site Safety Justification (NSSJ), which covers safe systems of work for the arrival, transit and anchoring of a single NPW within the waters of the DPP. It also describes the safety management arrangements and contingency plans that are in place to minimise risk, and has been approved by the Ministry of Defence's Naval Nuclear Regulatory Panel (NNRP). In addition to the NSSJ and in accordance with the requirements under the independent national regulations, Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) 2001, a Report of Assessment (ROA) of Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluation (HIRE) has been conducted that identifies the requirement for an emergency plan. The City of Portsmouth is covered by a detailed plan (PORTSAFE), which has been exercised and tested under REPPIR.

In recognising the additional risk associated with the attendance at the International Fleet Review of more that one NPW, a Special Safety Statement (SSS) has been produced that enhances the measures contained in the NSSJ. It deals with factors such as increased maritime traffic, transient changes in population, event activities and the battle re-enactments. It has been approved by the MOD's NNRP and has been accepted by the Portsmouth Nuclear Site Safety Committee, and the Nuclear Works and Services Authorisation Group (NWSAG), which comprises both MOD and independent expert advisers. Enhancements to PORTSAFE are not required due to the distance that the visiting NPWs will be anchored from residential areas. This has been agreed by the regulatory and local authorities.

Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place to ensure that bodies within the responsibility of his Department comply with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. [3544]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence complies with its obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 by the publication of a Race Equality Scheme (RES) and the production of annual progress reports against the scheme. The RES and the annual progress reports are published and in the public domain. The Department's RES covers its civilian work force (including Trading Funds), the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence police.

RAF Innsworth

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the implications for the tri-service medal office of the proposed changes at RAF Innsworth; and if he will make it his policy to relocate the office to available property belonging to his department in Droitwich Spa. [6993]

Mr. Touhig: The RAF Innsworth site is home to a number of elements of the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) including the Ministry of Defence Medal Office. AFPAA will be conducting an investment appraisal into the relocation of all AFPAA activities located at Innsworth. The result of this will not be known until at least the end of this year. The MOD is proceeding with closure works for the Droitwich Spa estate.

Royal Navy Ships (Berth Availability)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast availability is of the Z berth in Malabar, Bermuda, for Royal Navy ships. [6590]

Mr. Ingram: The Z berth in Bermuda is currently available as a facility for visiting RN submarines. There are no changes forecast to that arrangement.

Surface Fleet

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the configuration of the planned surface fleet is for *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012, *(c)* 2013 and *(d)* 2014; and if he will make a statement. [6477]

Mr. Ingram: Our plans for the surface fleet are set out on page 18 of "Delivering Security in a Changing World (Future Capabilities) (Cm 6269)", presented to the House by the Secretary of State for Defence in July 2004.

Territorial Army

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the long-term future of Territorial Army centres in Lancashire. [6370]

Mr. Touhig: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 18W, to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace). I will ensure that the hon. Friend is informed of the outcome of current work on rebalancing the Territorial Army in due course.

Trafalgar Celebrations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what events his Department is organising in Gibraltar to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar; and how many ships will visit as part of Trafalgar 200. [7201]

Mr. Ingram: A programme of events is planned to take place in Gibraltar during the weekend of 28–30 October 2005 to commemorate the close historic links between Gibraltar and Nelson's victory. In addition to a traditional service of remembrance at the Trafalgar cemetery, these will include a Nelson exhibition, Beating Retreat and reception, and a Royal Navy Ceremonial Guard Mount at His Excellency the

Governor's residence. The Royal Navy will also be invited to exercise their Freedom of the City privileges. A Royal Navy destroyer has also programmed to visit Gibraltar to partake in the commemorations.

In the UK, the Royal Navy is organising a special programme of events for this year, which is being coordinated with other events as part of the SeaBritain and Trafalgar Festival initiatives to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for *(a)* launching and *(b)* controlling the proposed Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle system from Royal Navy ships. [6793]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on the use of UAVs at sea on 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 334W.

Uzbekistan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel have been on training exercises in Uzbekistan in each year since 1997; and what the nature was of those training exercises. [6996]

Mr. Ingram: United Kingdom forces have undertaken one exercise in Uzbekistan since 1997, a company-level peacekeeping exercise which took place from 11–25 September 2004. The 146-person UK element was drawn from the Territorial Army.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel have been stationed in Uzbekistan for the purposes of training Uzbek military personnel in each year since 1997; and what the cost was of providing this training. [6997]

Mr. Ingram: There are no United Kingdom personnel permanently stationed in Uzbekistan specifically for the purposes of training Uzbek military personnel. However, the UK has sent British Military Advisory and Training Teams (BMATTs) to Uzbekistan in recent years, to provide training to the Uzbek armed forces, as follows:

Dates	*Locations*	*Subject*	*BMATT personnel*	*Students trained*	*Costs (£000)*
7–18 March 2005	Samarkand	Field Training	3	20	14
21 February to 9 March 2005	Samarkand	Marksmanship Coaching Course	2	20	14
1–25 September 2004	Chirchik, Tashkent	Management of Training	2	20	22
13 June to 11 July 2004	Samarkand	Instructor Training Course	2	18	23
20 October to 13 November 2003	Samarkand	Instructor Training Course	5	18	54
21 October to 23 November 2002	Samarkand	Instructor Training Course	4	19	48
Total					175

Wormwood Scrubs Act

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements there are under the Wormwood Scrubs Act 1879, as amended, for his Department to be consulted should a local authority propose carrying out works that might impede access to open space. [6773]

Mr. Touhig: Use of Wormwood Scrubs is governed by the Wormwood Scrubs Act 1879 and a Memorandum of Agreement dated 1 October 1980.

Under the Act, all development proposals, which affect Wormwood Scrubs must be referred to the Ministry of Defence for agreement. As trustees of the Scrubs, the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham are aware of this agreement and have complied with it in the past, most recently in 2001. The Ministry of Defence uses the Scrubs for training.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine TB

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many badgers have been culled in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Cornwall, *(c)* Somerset and *(d)* Dorset in each of the last three years; what estimate she has made of the cost of culling badgers in Devon to eradicate bovine TB; and if she will make a statement. [6263]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Five of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) areas are in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset or Dorset. However, as two of these trial areas straddle two counties it is not possible to provide the breakdown by county.

The following numbers of badgers have been culled as part of the RBCT in each of the relevant five areas:

Number

	[1]*2003*	[1]*2004*	[1]*2005*
Devon/Cornwall	133	282	111
Cornwall	241	233	187
Cornwall (2)	393	393	220
Somerset/Devon	247	214	73
Devon	441	187	109

[1] Each culling year runs from 1 May to 31 January.

The cost of the RBCT to the end of 2003–04 was approximately £32 million. It has since been costing about £7 million per annum. It is not possible to estimate the cost of the RBCT in Devon alone.

Dog Control Areas

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the commencement date will be in respect of powers for local authorities to introduce dog control areas; when she expects to publish regulations in respect of this matter; and if she will make a statement. [5878]

Mr. Bradshaw: We hope to commence the provisions in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act on Dog Control Orders in April 2006, and intend to consult on draft guidance and regulations this autumn.

Foot and Mouth

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of the airborne spread of foot and mouth disease during the 2001 outbreak. [6823]

Mr. Bradshaw: The possibility of airborne transmission of the foot-and-mouth-disease virus was assessed during the 2001 epidemic and studies have been conducted subsequently. These indicate that a maximum of 27 farms may have been infected by airborne spread.

Mole-catchers

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incidents of *(a)* damage to and *(b)* destruction of wildlife caused by the use of strychnine hydrochloride for the killing and destruction of moles by mole-catchers have occurred in the last 10 years. [6274]

Mr. Morley: The Government's Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) investigates cases of suspected poisoning of wildlife by pesticides. There have been no reported cases of wildlife being poisoned by the approved use of strychnine for mole control over the last 10 years. There have been two cases of poisonings reported which may have been due to the misuse or abuse of strychnine hydrochloride when used for mole-control.

Packaging

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent estimate is of the amount of household waste which is made up of unnecessary packaging. [5856]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Packaging (Essential Requirement) Regulations 2003 (as amended) stipulate that all packaging should be manufactured so that the packaging volume and weight are limited to the minimum adequate amount to maintain the necessary level of safety, hygiene and acceptance for the packed product and for the consumer. To date, three companies have been successfully prosecuted by Trading Standards for placing over-packaged goods on the market.

Companies with obligations under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 (as amended) also have a financial incentive to reduce the amount of packaging they manufacture or use.

Recycling

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on recycling since the Household Waste Recycling Bill was enacted. [6467]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Household Waste Recycling Act came into force on 1 April 2003. The information requested is presented in the following table:

	Percentage	*Tonnage (million)*
Household waste sent for recycling or composting in England		
2002–03	14.5	3.7
2003–04	17.7	4.5
Percentage of households served by a kerbside collection scheme in England		
2002–03	67	—
2003–04	80	—
Amount (tonnes) of household waste collected for recycling or composting through kerbside schemes		
2002–03	—	1.2
2003–04	—	1.9

Source:
Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey for England.

Tethered Equines

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the animal welfare guidelines are for permanently tethered equines; [6191]

(2) whether she has received any communication concerning the suffering and maltreatment of tethered horses, ponies and donkeys. [6192]

Mr. Bradshaw: While the Government would prefer that the tethering of horses did not occur at all, we recognise that in certain circumstances it can be an appropriate short-term management practice. The Department assisted in producing the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium in 2002, which addresses this issue.

The new Animal Welfare Bill will place on those who own or are responsible for animals, a duty to ensure their welfare. In particular, this duty of care will be supported by a code of practice for tethering horses. Although the Government is not proposing to ban the tethering of horses altogether, the code of practice will provide a set of minimum required welfare standards, including information on the correct type of equipment to be used to provide protection for tethered horses.

The Department receives occasional correspondence about the treatment of tethered horses, ponies and donkeys from members of the public and interested groups.

Timber

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of construction waste was timber in each of the last five years; what proportion of such timber was segregated for recycling into raw pulp or chipboard in each year; and what proportion of the remaining timber was landfilled in each year. [7284]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government does not hold data on the proportion of construction waste that was timber over the past five years.

Veterinary Medicines (EU Directive)

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has had with *(a)* small animal vets and *(b)* their representatives on the implementation of the EU Directive on batch recording and traceability of veterinary medicines; [6576]

(2) when she will publish her response to the consultation by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate on batch recording and traceability; [6577]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effect on small animal vets of the record-keeping requirements in the proposals of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate for implementation of the EU Directive on batch recording and traceability; [6578]

(4) what discussions she has had with her counterparts in other EU member states on implementation of the directive on batch recording and traceability of veterinary medicines. [6579]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is developing new Regulations setting out controls on all aspects of veterinary medicines. Their purpose is to implement an amending EU Directive, take forward relevant recommendations made in the Marsh and Competition Commission reports on the dispensing of veterinary prescription only medicines (POMs) in the UK, and replace the existing voluminous and outdated UK legislation on veterinary medicines with a single set of Regulations.

The new Regulations include provisions for retailers of veterinary POMs to record information relating to products received and supplied, including the manufacturer's batch number. These requirements are already applied to veterinary medicines for use in food-producing animals but the amending Directive extends their application to products for companion animals. We have received correspondence on this issue from a number of individuals including veterinary surgeons.

During the initial stages of developing the proposals, officials at the VMD consulted informally with a wide range of interested groups, including veterinary organisations. Following further development, a formal consultation package was published on the VMD website on 4 January 2005 and a letter sent to some 350 interested organisations and individuals. Consultees were allowed four months, until 5 May, to comment. Over 300 responses have been received and the comments, including those relating to the record-keeping provisions and their perceived impact on small animal veterinarians, are currently being considered and will be taken into account in finalising the draft Regulations. The VMD has kept interested parties informed of developments on key issues by publishing a series of reaction notes and has held public meetings on 21 and 22 June to discuss the outcome of the formal consultation. A further meeting with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association has been arranged for 29 June. VMD officials have also been in touch with officials in other member states to ascertain their approach to the implementation of these provisions.

Waste Recycling

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of electrical and electronic waste in the UK was recycled in the last year for which figures are available. [7206]

Mr. Bradshaw: I understand that, currently, approximately 60 per cent. of domestic WEEE, by weight, is recycled, mostly comprising large household appliances. The Industry Council for Electronic Equipment Recycling (ICER) does not yet have figures for recycling levels of business WEEE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

XML Feeds

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when XML feeds of the Parliamentary website for information, including the Official Report and Early Day Motions, will be made available; and if he will make a statement. [7533]

Nick Harvey: There are at present no plans to make XML feeds of the Parliamentary website available. XML feeds of Early Day Motions are used internally for the generation of printed papers and populating parliamentary and Government information management systems. XML feeds of Hansard are under development for similar purposes.

The Parliamentary Publications source database, which includes Hansard and Early Day Motions, is currently populated with content in HTML, and is available under licence from HMSO, who administer Parliamentary Copyright. Future planning for the development of the website will take into account the case for providing XML feeds.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UK Companies (Accountability)

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to ensure UK companies are accountable for their impact on *(a)* communities and *(b)* the environment in developing countries. [7460]

Mr. Thomas: All companies should operate within the laws of the country in which they are operating. UK companies operating in developing countries should be accountable to the Government and citizens of those countries. DFID recognises that, in many developing countries, the systems for monitoring and regulating business activity are weak. Our priority is to support countries' efforts to develop an appropriate legal framework, including protection of the environment and community rights, and to strengthen their capacity to enforce these laws. An example is the pathways to environmental action in Kenya where DFID supports work with local regulatory authorities and the private sector to find the best means of meeting environmental standards.

There are of course certain fundamental issues, such as respect for human rights, which are universal. At the global level, we encourage countries to sign up to the existing international agreements in this area—in particular, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) guidelines for multinational enterprises, the global compact and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) core conventions on labour standards. At the international level, we are also working with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on their environmental and social safeguards revision process.

Improved reporting mechanisms also give UK companies the opportunity to report on their impacts both at home and abroad. The new operating and financial review, which applies to financial years beginning on or after 1 April 2005 requires quoted companies to report on factors affecting the performance and future prospects of their company. They will be required to consider their impacts on environmental and community matters if this is relevant to an assessment of the company. This is a step forward in ensuring greater corporate transparency and accountability.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Commission for Africa

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the Commission for Africa's observations on the merits of using trade agreements to achieve growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. [6755]

Ian Pearson: The Government firmly believes that trade liberalisation through preferential, regional or multilateral agreements can play an important role in promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. As the Commission for Africa report highlights, it is essential that improvements are made to the supply capacity of African countries if they are to benefit fully from the potential gains that trade liberalisation brings.

Company Directors

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make it his policy to allow company directors the discretion to forgo commercial advantage for ethical and public objectives. [7575]

Alun Michael: Company law provides a flexible framework which can be used by both commercial companies and companies formed for an altruistic purpose. We will be codifying directors' general duties in our proposed Company Law Reform Bill. In the case of a commercial company, directors have a duty to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members. This means that the directors should put commercial considerations first, but, in doing so, they should foster effective relationships with employees, customers and suppliers, and in the community more widely. They need to pay regard to the long run as well as the short term consequences of their actions. We believe that this approach can both drive long-term company performance and maximise overall competitiveness and ensure that directors pay regard to the company's impact on the community and the environment.

Corruption

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many allegations of overseas bribery and corruption by British companies have been received by his Department since May 2004. [6481]

Ian Pearson: The Department of Trade and Industry has received one allegation of overseas bribery and corruption by a British company since May 2004, and ECGD have received two allegations.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 78–9W, on Export Credits Guarantee Department, when he expects to report on the consultation; and if he will make a statement. [6185]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 June 2005]*: The Export Credits Guarantee Department expects to report on the consultation in September 2005.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Government's response to the consultation, Estimating the Economic Cost of the ECGD to the DTI, will be published; and if he will make a statement. [6219]

Ian Pearson: The methodology to estimate the economic cost of ECGD, which was set out alongside Budget 2005, will be reviewed as part of, and published alongside, the 2006 Spending Review. Comments submitted by any interested party will continue to be taken into account before publishing the final method and economic cost figure.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Export Credits Guarantee Department has allocated to *(a)* fossil fuel projects and *(b)* renewable energy in each of the last five years. [6797]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member for St. Ives to the answer given on 7 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 1263W. I will write to the hon. Member with up-to-date information as soon as it is available.

MG Rover

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what issues he has asked the inspectors Messrs Guy Newey and Gervase MacGregor to investigate in their inquiry into MG Rover; whether he has asked them to limit their inquiry to specific areas; when he expects them to present their report to him; and whether he plans to publish the report. [6667]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 412W.

Miners Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the implications of the proposed transfer of miners' compensation claims by the UDM from AMS Law Solicitors to Moss Solicitors in February. [7263]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has not been informed by the UDM of any mass transfer of miners' compensation claims from AMS Law Solicitors to Moss solicitors.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reasons his Department signed an agreement in 1999 on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with the Union of Democratic Mineworkers following the signing of the January 1999 agreement on vibration white finger with Vendside Ltd. [7267]

Malcolm Wicks: Vendside is wholly owned by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. It makes no practical difference to the claims handling arrangements which of the two is named in them.

Monopsonies/Oligopsonies

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to deal with monopsonies and oligopsonies with particular reference to *(a)* supermarkets, *(b)* disintermediation and *(c)* small shops. [7727]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The prime responsibility for operating our competition regime rests with the independent competition authorities. In the specific case of supermarkets it is the Office of Fair Trading, which is currently responsible for keeping under the review the Code of Practice governing supermarkets' relations with their suppliers and for dealing with any other competition issues in the sector.

Onshore Wind Technology

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action he is taking to support newly emerging renewable technologies other than onshore wind farms. [6906]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are providing just over £500 million of support between 2002–08 to help develop emerging renewable and low carbon technologies. This will take the form of spending on R&D and funding for capital grants. Onshore wind is not eligible for capital grants, except in the case of small community schemes supported under Clear Skies.

Funding includes grants of £117 million for offshore wind, over £60 million for energy crops and biomass, £31 million for PV, £12.5 million for community schemes and as announced last year, £50 million for the setting up of a Marine Renewables Deployment Fund.

On 14 June, it was announced that a £40 million–four year funding package to support demonstrations of carbon abatement technologies (£25 million) and hydrogen and fuel cell technologies (£15 million).

Total public expenditure on research and development for renewable energy sources for 2003–04 was estimated at over £29 million.

Opencast Mining (Scotland)

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the implications of new planning guidelines for opencast mines in relation to meeting Scotland's future energy requirements. [6103]

Malcolm Wicks: None. At the Scottish Executive's invitation, officials commented on the draft Review of National Policy Guideline 16 before it was submitted to Scottish Executive Ministers ahead of the public consultation period.

Timeshares

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward legislation to make it illegal for a timeshare operation to dispose of timeshare development without offering full compensation based on the true value of each owner's holiday week. [7194]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have no plans to bring forward legislation of the type described by the hon. Member. The conditions under which a timeshare resort owner is able to sell a resort will be a matter of the contracts he holds with the timeshare owners. The cross-border nature of the industry and the difficulties which this can cause in cases where individual timeshare owners feel they have a case to pursue against their resort supplier are such that issues of the type alluded to in the question are best considered in the European context.

I have written recently to Commissioner Kyprianou to urge him to ensure that the projected review of the operation and scope of the Timeshare Directive (implemented in the UK by the Timeshare Act 1992 as amended) is given urgent attention. Industry and consumer stakeholders will have the opportunity to present the Commission with evidence of failings in the regime in the course of the review, as will the Department and the Office of Fair Trading.

Wind Farms

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the risk to sea birds of placing a large wind farm in the Thames Estuary; and if she will make a statement. [7011]

Malcolm Wicks: The potential impacts of offshore wind farm projects are considered in detail during the process that determines whether to grant consent for those projects. In support of an application for consent, the applicant will undertake an assessment of a wide range of impacts of the project, the results of which will be submitted in the form of an environmental statement with the application.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will, in determining the application, consider the results of a wide ranging public consultation exercise on the applicant's assessment that will include English Nature and other relevant bodies as necessary.

The Department of Trade and Industry has commissioned and part-funded with Defra and wind farm developers, a comprehensive programme of aerial bird surveys in each of the three strategic areas used for

Round 2 of offshore wind farm leasing including the Thames Estuary. The programme is already providing valuable information about bird populations in those areas which will be utilised by developers, regulators and consultees in their deliberations of wind farm impacts.

TRANSPORT

Concessionary Fares

1. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the concessionary travel fare scheme for pensioners. [7334]

Mr. Darling: The Government will provide an extra £350 million in 2006–07 which they believe will be sufficient to fund the cost to local authorities.

Crossrail (London Olympic Bid)

14. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the implications of the Crossrail project for the London Olympic Bid. [7347]

Derek Twigg: Discussions were held as part of preliminary work, before the decision to bid was made in May 2003. Crossrail is not, and never has been part of London's Olympic Bid.

Rail Utilisation Strategy (West Midlands)

15. **Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the West Midlands Rail Utilisation Strategy. [7348]

Dr. Ladyman: The document is currently being finalised and it will be published soon.

Road Fund Tax

16. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of current levels of evasion of the road fund tax. [7349]

Dr. Ladyman: Vehicle excise duty evasion is measured by annual roadside surveys of around 1 million vehicles. The 2004 survey indicated that vehicle excise duty evasion stood at 3.4 per cent. of the revenue due (around £129 million per annum).

National Road Pricing System

17. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the introduction of a national road pricing system. [7350]

Dr. Ladyman: In line with their manifesto commitments, the Government are examining the potential of moving away from the current system of motoring taxation towards a national system of road pricing.

Road Improvements

19. **Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work to begin to dual the A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury if the project is prioritised by the South East England Regional Assembly. [7352]

Dr. Ladyman: If the current regional prioritisation exercise should give this scheme a high priority the earliest that construction could start is 2008. In the meantime the Highways Agency will continue to develop the scheme towards publication of draft orders and, if necessary, public inquiry.

Road Improvements

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Highways Agency about plans to improve the A417 between Nettleton Bottom and Brockworth bypass, Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [7353]

Dr. Ladyman: Although the Secretary for State has had no recent discussions with the Highways Agency he is aware that the Agency has been developing this scheme. The scheme is not currently in the Government's Targeted Programme of Improvements.

The trunk road network has been divided into two categories: routes of national importance and routes of predominantly regional significance, with the intention of getting greater regional input into transport spending decisions. The A417 is an important regional road, so the next step will be for the South West Region Planning Body to advise where this scheme should rank alongside other transport schemes in the region. Ministers will then decide whether the scheme should be added to the programme.

A38

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the outcome of the noise hotspots assessment was for the *(a)* A38 Shobnall Road, *(b)* A38 Wyggeston, *(c)* M6 Western Downs, *(d)* A38 Branston and Ashmole—Branston B—Near A38 Junction and *(e)* A38 Branston and Ashmole—Branston A—Lichfield Road. [7684]

Dr. Ladyman: The A38 Wyggeston Road; M6 Western Downs between Junctions 12 and 13; and A38 Branston and Ashmole (sites A and B) are eligible for future funding as they meet some of the criteria. The A38 Shobnall Road received quieter noise resurfacing works as part of the Burton By-pass renewals scheme. This was completed January 2005.

A40

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many accidents occurred in each year between 1984 and 2004 on the A40 road between Carmarthen and St. Clears; [6910]

(2) how many accidents occurred in each year between 1984 and 2004 on the A40 road between St. Clears and Haverfordwest. [6911]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is shown in the following table. Figures for 2004 are not yet available.

Number of accidents (involving personal injury) on the A40: 1984–2003

	Section between Carmarthen and St. Clears	*Section between St. Clears and Haverfordwest*
1984	30	17
1985	12	24
1986	19	27
1987	8	33
1988	9	30
1989	14	46
1990	17	51
1991	22	33
1992	15	30
1993	19	33
1994	18	30
1995	15	39
1996	14	34
1997	13	39
1998	9	37
1999	13	26
2000	11	31
2001	9	19
2002	10	29
2003	9	22

Air Displays

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact on air displays of the proposed increase in fees for an Article 70 display permission; and if he will make a statement. [7060]

Ms Buck: The Secretary of State has made no such assessment. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) commenced a 12 week consultation on proposals for its safety regulation charging schemes on Friday 10 June. This covers the charging period from 1 January 2006 to 31 March 2007. In due course, the CAA Board will seek the Secretary of State's approval for the revised schemes, as required by the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

Aircraft Pollution

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals he has to reduce pollution from aircraft. [6216]

Ms Buck: The Government are committed to tackling pollution from aircraft. The measures we are taking are set out in Chapter 3 of "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper. They include pressing for the inclusion of aviation in the European Union emissions trading scheme from 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter.

We have introduced the Civil Aviation Bill which clarifies and strengthens the measures available to airports for dealing with aircraft noise. This includes a greater ability to introduce and enforce noise amelioration measures beyond airport boundaries and an ability to impose penalties where aircraft stray from routes designed to mininise noise. The Bill also makes explicit the powers of airports to set charges which reflect local emissions from aircraft.

These plans build on Government action pressing for tighter international emissions standards, funding research and promoting sustainability within the sector.

Crossrail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Crossrail is exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [7490]

Derek Twigg: Cross London Rail Links Ltd. (CLRLL) is not wholly owned by any one public authority, and as such is not covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I understand from CLRLL that the board of directors have undertaken that the company should behave as though it has to conform to the Act.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used to decide that the Romford Crossrail Depot Option required a dive-under. [7491]

Derek Twigg: Due to the high frequency of trains running at speeds of up to 80 miles per hour on the main lines past the proposed Crossrail depot, a grade separated crossing is required in order for Crossrail trains to enter and leave the depot and access the electric lines on which Crossrail services will operate.

Double-deck Trains

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on what train lines the Government is planning to introduce double-deck trains; [7797]

(2) whether the existing UK rail network can accommodate double-deck trains; [7798]

(3) what assessment the Government has made of the merits of *(a)* introducing double-deck trains and *(b)* lengthening platforms and adding extra carriages to trains. [7799]

Derek Twigg: The Department will be looking at a variety of options for increasing rail capacity both over the short term and the longer term. Among other options, this will include an assessment of the potential costs and benefits of using double-decker trains in the UK.

Durham Roads Budget

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what central funding has been allocated to Durham county council roads budget in each year since 1997. [6884]

Ms Buck: The Department has approved over £103 million of block funding to Durham county council between April 1997 and March 2005. Of this, £46.115 million was for capital maintenance, £35.697 million was for Integrated transport and £21.382 million was for major transport projects.

The funding provided to Durham county council over the above-mentioned period is shown in the following table.

Durham CC central funding for roads

£ million

	Capital maintenance	*Integrated block*	*Major schemes*	*Total*
1997–98	0.956	0.480	0	1.436
1998–99	0.658	0.370	0	1.028
1999–2000	4.238	4.871	0	9.109
2000–01	5.24	2.190	4.200	11.63
2001–02	8.555	5.397	1.955	15.907
2002–03	9.103	6.440	6.117	21.66
2003–04	8.008	8.054	1.007	17.069
2004–05	9.357	7.895	8.103	25.355
Total	46.115	35.697	21.382	103.194

Gatwick Express

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last met *(a)* the Strategic Rail Authority and *(b)* the British Airports Authority to discuss the future of the Gatwick Express; and if he will make a statement. [5036]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 June 2005]*: Officials from the Department for Transport and Strategic Rail Authority meet regularly to discuss the Brighton Mainline. They have also recently held a series of meetings with the British Airports Authority to specifically discuss the future of the Gatwick Express.

Heathrow

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of passengers at Heathrow who were *(a)* UK residents on business trips, *(b)* overseas residents on business trips to the UK, *(c)* overseas residents on business trips transferring or transiting at Heathrow en route to an overseas destination, *(d)* UK residents on leisure trips, *(e)* overseas residents on leisure trips to the UK and *(f)* overseas residents on leisure trips transferring or transiting at Heathrow en route to an overseas destination, in each of the last five years. [6465]

Ms Buck: The following table shows terminal (terminating and transfer) and transit passengers at Heathrow who were UK and overseas residents on business or leisure trips by routes.

Terminal and transit passengers at Heathrow 2000–04

Answer:		*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
A	Business trips by UK residents	11.7	11.0	10.4	10.3	11.5
B	Business trips to/from the UK by overseas residents	8.6	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.7
C	Overseas residents on business trips transferring at Heathrow between an overseas origin and an overseas destination	4.0	3.8	4.6	4.6	4.7
D	Leisure trips by UK residents	17.4	16.7	17.9	18.0	19.0
E	Leisure trips to/from the UK by overseas residents	12.4	10.7	10.1	11.0	11.5
F	Overseas residents on leisure trips transferring at Heathrow between an overseas origin and an overseas destination	9.6	9.8	11.6	11.6	12.3
Transit passengers (million)		0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2

Illegal Drivers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of drivers who have never taken a driving test. [7240]

Dr. Ladyman: It is not known how many full driving licence holders have never taken a driving test. The Road Traffic Act 1934 provided that all new applicants would have to undertake a test of competence to drive. The Act provided an exemption from the need to take a driving test for those drivers who had held a provisional licence prior to 1 April 1934. In addition between 18 February 1947 and 17 February 1948 provisional licences obtained during the second world war were converted to full licences without the requirement to sit a driving test. Records kept at this time did not distinguish between full licence holders who obtained full entitlement as a consequence of passing a test and those who relied on the exemptions contained in the appropriate Acts.

M18

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to erect fencing alongside the carriageways of the M18 motorway. [7427]

Dr. Ladyman: There are currently no plans to erect any new boundary or noise fencing alongside the carriageways of the M18 motorway.

Rail Freight

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to encourage the transporting of freight by rail. [5901]

Derek Twigg: Rail plays a crucial role in goods transport and we wish to see freight travelling by rail instead of road wherever this makes sense. This is delivered most effectively by a competitive and dynamic private sector rail freight industry, with our role to maintain the conditions where the industry can flourish.

We plan to provide approximately £24 million of grants in each of the next two years, and the industry also benefits from the current unprecedented level of investment in the network, including some investment specifically supporting rail freight traffic, for instance the £30 million Felixstowe gauge enhancement completed last year.

In addition, the ORR has recently published its policy on long-term contracts, providing a platform for continued investment by the industry and greater commercial confidence for their customers.

Rail Passengers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of passengers who used the London to Scotland sleeper in each of the last three years; and at which stations it stopped in this period. [6636]

Derek Twigg: The London to Scotland sleeper service is part of the Scotrail franchise and is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive.

Figures for the number of passengers using sleeper services between London and Scotland in each of the last three years are not held centrally. However, industry data shows the following level of patronage:

Fiscal year	*Passenger journeys*
2002–03	234,000
2003–04	237,000
2004–05	236,000

Rail Projects

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on Government funding for the *(a)* Euston rail development and *(b)* extension of the Eurostar route. [5220]

Derek Twigg: The Government has no plans to fund the extension of Eurostar services which will transfer to St. Pancras upon completion of Section 2 of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link in 2007, but the connection from new St. Pancras International station to the West Coast Main Line is being built under the CTRL Project.

Railway Stations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which railway stations in Lancashire have CCTV. [6638]

Derek Twigg: I have been advised by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) that the following railway stations in Lancashire have CCTV:

Blackpool North
Blackburn
Chorley
Church and Oswaldtwistle
Wigan Wallgate
Lancaster
Preston
Carnforth

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will commission a feasibility study into the provision of a new parkway rail station for Canvey Island linking into the Fenchurch Street line at Pitsea. [7383]

Derek Twigg: There are no plans for a new parkway station for Canvey Island. The hon. Member may wish to refer to the Strategic Rail Authority's document, New Stations: A Guide for Promoters (copy in the Library of the House) which outlines the process to be followed by third party sponsors of new stations. Improvements are being made to Pitsea station at a cost of £1 million.

Railways

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress there has been towards a higher frequency train service on the North London line. [6926]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for London (TfL) are working on opportunities to give the London Mayor more responsibility for the delivery of the North London line. It is hoped that agreement will be reached over the course of the summer on how the Mayor will play an increased role in specification and delivery and he is now considering how enhancements to the current service can be achieved to deliver value for money.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average increase was in long distance fares charged by each of the rail franchise holders operating in England between 2004 and 2005. [6945]

Derek Twigg: The information is not available in the form requested. The Strategic Rail Authority publishes a Rail Fares Index in its 'National Rail Trends', of which a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. This indicates that the real terms change in average prices for all the long distance operators between 2004 and 2005 was 1.5 per cent.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent studies his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* evaluated into the viability of introducing passenger community rail services on a seasonal basis. [6973]

Derek Twigg: The Strategic Rail Authority's "Community Rail Development Strategy" provides the flexibility for local initiatives to reflect seasonal requirements in planning timetables. The cost of providing additional resources solely for seasonal services is high and may not always represent value for money.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the report from the Association of Train Operating Companies advocating a congestion charge for the railways at peak hours. [7054]

Derek Twigg: There are no plans to introduce a congestion charge for the railways.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what constraints exist on an increase in passenger capacity on the Fenchurch street to Shoeburyness rail line; and if he will make a statement. [7083]

Derek Twigg: The rolling stock formations now in use on the Fenchurch street to Shoeburyness rail line are sufficient to accommodate demand within the limits prescribed to control overcrowding. Constraints that would place a limit on increased passenger capacity include the number of trains available; the fact that platforms on the Tilbury loop section of the c2c network cannot accommodate trains longer than 8 cars; and signalling headways and therefore the number of trains that can stop in the West Ham area.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* rail bridges and *(b)* embankments there are over roads in the Stroud constituency; and what measures have been put in place to improve safety around them. [7242]

Ms Buck: This information is not held centrally in the Department. Rail infrastructure is a matter for Network Rail.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 535W on Railways, how many prosecutions there were for trespassing on railways in the UK in each of the last five years. [7969]

Derek Twigg: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given on 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 920W.

Road Safety

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been conducted in the last five years into the safety of re-surfaced roads in all weather conditions; and what the key findings were. [7568]

Dr. Ladyman: Following the concerns expressed by Derbyshire county council in 2001 regarding the skid resistance on newly laid surfaces that were based on their own specification, the Highways Agency carried out an initial assessment of the skid resistance properties of newly laid modern surfaces. These findings were inconclusive and therefore a further phase of measurements and assessment were instigated in 2003. The findings are to be reported shortly. The Highways Agency also commissioned research in early 2005 regarding the accident risks on the modern surfaces. Findings will be reported in 2008.

The Department for Transport, on behalf of the UK Roads Board has commissioned best practice guidance for local authorities on how and where thin surfacings and stone mastic asphalts can be applied. The results of this research will be available in the autumn.

Speed Limits

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department uses in its national policy on implementing speed limits on roads; and if he will make a statement. [6791]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government is responsible for setting the national speed limits—the maximum limits for the different categories of roads, namely:

70 mph for motorways and dual carriageways;

60 mph for single carriageway roads;

30 mph for urban street-lit roads ('restricted roads').

The Government also sets the lower speed limits which apply to defined categories of heavy vehicles.

Traffic authorities (local highway authorities and the Highways Agency) have the powers to set local speed limits through section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, where they feel that the national limit is not appropriate, being best placed to manage their road network and set appropriate speed limits, taking into account local needs and considerations.

To help ensure consistency in the setting of local speed limits, the Department has issued guidance, currently set out in Circular Roads 1/93.

Many developments have taken place in speed management since 1993, and the Department consulted on draft updated guidance on setting local speed limits at the end of 2004. As well as further improving clarity and consistency, the draft seeks to incorporate important wider factors such as quality of life through, for example, striking a more sensible balance between road safety, accessibility and environmental objectives, especially in rural areas, and taking better account of the needs of more vulnerable road users.

The consultation prompted a considerable number of wide-ranging comments, which are currently being analysed. The updated guidance on the setting of local speed limits will be published later this year.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to review statutory speed limits on UK roads. [7110]

Mr. Darling: The Government has no current plans to review the national speed limits for which it is responsible, namely:

70 mph for motorways and dual carriageways;

60 mph for single carriageway roads;

30 mph for urban street-lit roads ('restricted roads').

And the lower speed limits which apply to defined categories of heavy vehicles.

The Department is however in the process of updating its guidance to Traffic authorities (local highway authorities and the Highways Agency) on the setting of local speed limits, which are set through section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 when the national limit is not appropriate.

Taxis

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his timetable is for publishing accessibility regulations for taxis under Part 5 of the Disabilities Discrimination Act 1995; and if he will make a statement. [7559]

Ms Buck: The Government's proposals to introduce Taxi Accessibility Regulations under Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) were announced in the House on 26 October 2003. These would see the phasing in from 2010 (for all newly licensed vehicles), of regulations in specified licensing areas (those which meet one or more of the following criteria: a licensing authority area population of a least 120,000 people; a major transport interchange; a major tourist attraction or an existing mandatory policy resulting in 100 per cent. accessible vehicles). Full compliance would be required by 2020.

The 2010 date has been proposed to accommodate a full public consultation process, to give sufficient time for vehicle manufacturers and converters to produce new models that meet the regulations, and to give the trade sufficient time to adapt to the change.

We are currently developing the technical specification which will form the basis for the regulations. To assist this process, the Department recently held a seminar for stakeholders from industry, organisations representing disabled people and licensing authorities to discuss both the technical and policy implications of the proposals. The views expressed at the seminar will be used to shape the final consultation package.

In the period before regulations are introduced, local licensing authorities remain free to introduce their own accessibility policies and many have done so already.

Train Operating Companies

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that train operating companies that plan to operate a congestion charge for commuters at peak hours are not awarded rail franchises. [7351]

Derek Twigg: A wide range of fares are regulated. This includes the majority of peak commuter fares including season tickets and travelcards. Overall, regulated fares are capped so that they cannot increase by more than RPI + 1 per cent. a year. Other fares are entirely a matter for train operators, and will continue to be set on a commercial basis.

Violence Against Transport Personnel

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* railway employees, *(b)* bus drivers and conductors and *(c)* taxi drivers have been the victims of offences of violence in each of the last 10 years. [4944]

Derek Twigg: *(a)* The number of railway staff assaulted while on duty over the last seven financial years, and recorded by the British Transport Police (BTP), is as follows:

	Number
1998–99	1,225
1999–2000	1,392
2000–01	1,329
2001–02	1,438
2002–03	1,925
2003–04	2,240
2004–05	2,769

Notes:

1. Due to changes in Home Office counting rules in recording crime, introduced in April 1998, data prior to that date is non-comparable.
2. The introduction by the Home Office of a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) had the effect of increasing the number of recorded crimes by an average of 22 per cent. in all police forces in England and Wales. The BTP adopted the NCRS in April 2002.
3. Figures include England, Scotland and Wales.

(b) The number of assaults on bus crews, including conductors and inspectors, since 1995 is as follows:

	Number
1995	1,938
1996	2,154
1997	1,899
1998	1,594
1999	1,680
2000[1]	1,260
2001	2,638
2002	2,874
2003[2]	953

[1] Data for 2000 is considered unreliable owing to poor level of reporting.

[2] Data for 2003 excludes London operators for which no report was made by TfL.

Notes:

1. Data for London provided by Transport for London (TfL).
2. Data for outside London provided by a panel of large bus operators selected by DfT.
3. Data for 2003 is the latest available.
4. Figures include England, Scotland and Wales.

(c) No information is available on assaults on taxi drivers.

Virgin Trains

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of passengers who had no seat on Virgin trains from London to the North West in the last period for which figures are available. [6635]

Derek Twigg: I would refer my hon. Friend to the train operator, Virgin Trains.

TREASURY

Aid Provision

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to improve EU member states' targeting of aid to the poorest countries; and if he will make a statement. [7673]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The European Union has made an historic commitment to double EU aid by 2010, as part of a timetable to reach 0.7 oda/GNI by 2015. This agreement will raise aid from last year's levels of around US$40 billion to, by 2010, over $80 billion. The agreement also includes a commitment that at least 50 per cent. of new aid will go to Africa.

The European Commission is currently reviewing its international aid policy. The UK is lobbying to improve the poverty focus of EC aid, and to ensure that a greater proportion is spend in low-income countries.

Aviation Taxation

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the introduction of new taxes on *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international UK flights to fund development aid for Africa; and if he will make a statement. [5602]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* At the 10–11 June G8 Finance Ministerial, Ministers agreed:

"to continue our work programme on the IFF and its pilot, the IFF for Immunisation; some of the revenue proposals from the Landau report, including a pilot project, supported and led by France and Germany, for a contribution on air travel tickets to support specific development projects and to refinance the IFF".

Burma (Imports)

Vera Baird: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tonnage of goods has been imported to the UK from Burma through *(a)* Teesport, *(b)* Harwich, *(c)* Felixstowe and *(d)* London per year on average over the past five years. [7696]

Dawn Primarolo: The tonnage of goods imported to the UK from Burma through *(a)* Teesport, *(b)* Harwich, *(c)* Felixstowe and *(d)* London are shown in the table:

UK imports from Burma: general trade 2000–04

Tonnes

Port	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]	*Average (2000–04)*
Teesport[2]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Harwich	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Felixstowe	5,624.5	6,982.3	7,259.9	7,480.1	6,478.7	6,765.1
London seaport[3]	6,697.1	5,012.2	1,375.9	1,714.7	53.5	2,970.7
London airports[4]	404.8	409.5	810.4	930.5	104.8	532.0

[1] Figures for 2004 are provisional.
[2] Teesport includes Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.
[3] London seaport includes Tilbury.
[4] London airports includes Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton.
Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics, HM Revenue and Customs

Cost Recovery

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to update his guidance on full cost recovery for voluntary and community sector organisations; and what impact he expects this will have on *(a)* adult and *(b)* children's hospice funding. [7075]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government will publish during 2005 a second edition of Guidance to Funders, which will include detailed guidance to those issuing public funds on how to implement full cost recovery.

The NHS should be working with both children's and adults' hospices towards agreed levels of service, ensuring that the price for the agreed level of service reflects the full cost of the service to be provided, including the legitimate portion of overhead costs.

Further information for the voluntary palliative care sector on the principles of full cost recovery, together with Healthcare Resource Groups and Payment by Results, is being prepared by The National Partnership Group for Palliative Care.

Customs and Excise (Fraud)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review previous criminal investigations into cases of fraud by staff working for Customs and Excise; and if he will make a statement. [6644]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The Internal Investigation Division of HMRC, together with the Professional Standards Unit of Law Enforcement Investigation, is currently reviewing a number of historic criminal cases involving officers of HM Customs and Excise. If the hon. Member has information pertinent to a specific case we would be pleased to look into the matter.

Customs and Excise Staff (Criminal Investigations)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the criminal investigations which have been undertaken by Customs and Excise in respect of which legal proceedings are not ongoing into allegations of fraud and other malpractice by staff working for Customs and Excise in the last 10 years; and what the dates were of each. [7574]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last five years HMCE have conducted 12 criminal investigations where serving officers have been identified as potential suspects. Of these cases three have been put before the courts and have been finalized. The dates and outcomes of these cases is as follows:

2001—Officer acquitted of fraudulent evasion of VAT charge.

2004—Officer sentenced to two years and six months for conspiracy to cheat the Revenue.

2005—Officer sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for conspiracy to import controlled drugs.

Of the remaining cases:

Three have been concluded with no action being taken against the officers, as there was insufficient evidence.

One case was dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

Five cases are currently before the courts or awaiting trial.

Between 1995 and 2000 criminal investigations involving members of staff would have been undertaken by the national investigation service (NIS) of HMCE, or regional criminal investigation units (CIU). These investigations would have been restricted to matters assigned to HMCE, such as VAT or Excise duty evasion and the importation of prohibited or restricted goods.

Finance Bill

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1133, on the Finance Bill, what model was used to estimate the VAT gap. [7707]

Dawn Primarolo: A detailed explanation of the technical approach for measurement of VAT losses was provided in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses", published in November 2002, alongside the pre-Budget report 2002. An updated version of this paper entitled "Measuring and Tackling Indirect Tax Losses" was published in December 2003 and the latest update was published in December 2004. Copies of all these publications can be obtained from the House Library.

HM Revenue and Customs

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs has not yet announced its restructuring plans; and when these plans will be announced. [7356]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of the emerging structure and organisation of the new Department have been published in the spring departmental report 2005, which was published on 16 June 2005.

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor bodies spent on consultancy projects in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [7354]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available for 2001–02 and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. In respect of 2002–03 and 2003–04, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the former Financial Secretary (Mr. Timms) gave to the hon. Members for Stratford-upon-Avon and New Forest East on 25 October 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1055–6W. In 2004–05, expenditure by the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise was £74 million and £61 million, respectively.

Hospital Infections

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths have been recorded in each year since 2001 where *(a) Clostridium difficile*, *(b)* glycopoptide resistant enterococci, *(c)* small round structured viruses and *(d)* Acinetobacter was (i) mentioned on the death certificate and (ii) also the underlying cause of death. [7220]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked him to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Paul Burstow, dated 28 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths have been recorded in each year since 2001 where *(a) Clostridium difficile*, *(b)* glycopeptide resistant enterococci, *(c)* small round structured viruses and *(d)* Acinetobacter was (i) mentioned on the death certificate and (ii) also the underlying cause of death. (7220)

In the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), deaths involving enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile* can all be identified from the code A04.7. Enterocolitis is the commonest illness caused by *C. difficile* infection. For causes other than enterocolitis that are also known to be associated with *C. difficile*, it is not possible to identify from ICD codes alone the number of deaths where *C. difficile* actually contributed to the death. For this reason, the only routinely available mortality statistics on *C. difficile* are those where it was associated with enterocolitis. These figures were provided in answer to a question from Mr David Lidington MP, Hansard Written Answer 3764, page 49W on 13 June.

Figures for glycopeptide resistant enterococci, small round structured viruses and Acinetobacter are not available from routine death certification data. These are laboratory classifications of microorganisms. Such microbiological detail is rarely used in describing the illnesses from which patients suffer or die. Furthermore, as the ICD is not designed to capture microbiological detail, there are no specific codes in ICD-10 to check whether there are any deaths for which these conditions were mentioned on the death certificate.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* remit, *(b)* time scale and *(c)* reporting date are for the special study the Office for National Statistics is undertaking with the Health Protection Agency to identify the total number of deaths where *Clostridium difficile* was mentioned on the death certificate. [7221]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Paul Burstow, dated 28 June 2005:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking about the remit, timescale and reporting date for the special study the Office of National Statistics is undertaking with the Health Protection Agency to identify the total number of deaths where *Clostridium difficile* was mentioned on the death certificate.

The remit of the special study currently being undertaken is to assess whether information on the number of deaths associated with *C. difficile*, beyond that available routinely, can be obtained by examining the text of death certificates with mention of illnesses other than enterocolitis that may be caused by this organism. This work is likely to take several months.

Initial identification of the likely number of deaths requiring manual checking will be completed in July. Only when this is complete will it be possible to estimate the timescale for the manual checking and subsequent release of the results of the study.

Income Tax Returns

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the total amount of financial penalties that have been collected by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for late filing of income tax self assessment returns for each of the last five years for which information is available, broken down by *(a)* fines, *(b)* interest charges and *(c)* other charges; and if he will make a statement. [7086]

Dawn Primarolo: The amount raised in respect of penalties paid for failure to submit self assessment tax returns, by the due date, in each year since 2000 is shown in the following table. The years relate to the former Inland Revenue accounting years that run to the end of October each year. Interest on late payment of penalties is not included in the table as the vast majority of interest charges arise because of late payment of the tax. There are no other charges.

Year to end of October	Penalties paid (£ million)
2000	33.01
2001	36.20
2002	36.45
2003	37.78
2004	37.38

Inheritance Tax/Stamp Duty

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average inheritance tax paid in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* the UK and *(d)* each Government Office region has been in each year since 1997; [7434]

(2) what the average *(a)* stamp duty and *(b)* inheritance tax in London has been in each year since 1996. [7436]

Dawn Primarolo: 94 per cent. of estates do not pay inheritance tax. For estates that have paid tax, the average amount of inheritance tax in the UK is shown in the following table rounded to the nearest £1,000:

	Average UK inheritance tax bill (£000)
1996–97	85
1997–98	94
1998–99	97
1999–2000	97
2000–01	98
2001–02	103
2002–03	92
2003–04	81
2004–05	[1]83

[1] provisional

Equivalent figures are not available for individual counties or regions.

Estimates of average stamp duty arising from residential land and property transactions by country and region from 1996–97 are given in the following table. These estimates supersede figures which were given in *Hansard* in column 394W on 15 June 2005.

Averages £

	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000
North East	220	330	320	400
North West	320	300	400	540
Yorkshire and the Humber	320	350	360	510
East Midlands	330	330	420	600
West Midlands	410	380	490	700
East of England	520	620	800	1,080
London	960	1,130	1,630	2,600
South East	730	800	1,210	1,700
South West	490	550	670	1,030
Wales	260	350	370	470
Scotland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northern Ireland	200	240	320	470

	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
North East	500	770	790	1,030
North West	610	730	1,010	1,250
Yorkshire and the Humber	510	570	990	1,360
East Midlands	720	740	1,200	1,760
West Midlands	880	1,090	1,450	1,880
East of England	1,530	1,960	2,370	3,150
London	3,830	4,420	4,910	5,880
South East	2,220	2,720	3,240	3,900
South West	1,380	1,560	2,080	2,820
Wales	530	580	1,060	1,380
Scotland	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,210
Northern Ireland	730	1,000	800	1,080

Inland Revenue Offices

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his Department's policy to maintain a physical presence at local inland revenue offices. [7359]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs is preparing business plans to meet its efficiency savings for 2005–08. These plans will ensure that HM Revenue and Customs still provides a face-to-face service at least as good as at present for customers who need it. It is too early to say how the plans might affect any particular office.

Managed Expenditure

Mr. Herbert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the increase in total managed expenditure between 1999–2000 and 2007–08 inclusive was in real terms. [7950]

Mr. Des Browne: Total managed expenditure in real terms from 1999–2000 to 2007–08 is shown in table 1.2 of "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2005" (CM6521).

Pension Funds

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total tax receipts from pension funds has been in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [7644]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Pension funds held by approved pension schemes do not normally pay tax. The only exceptions are where a pension fund is involved in an activity outside the terms of tax approval and that approval is withdrawn; on very rare occasions where schemes pay tax on a part of their income for instance if they are trading or have an unreduced surplus; or if they make a taxable payment to a sponsoring employer or scheme member. The amount of tax paid by pension funds under these circumstances is not known. However, the Government continue to give generous tax relief to encourage pension savings—worth over £11 billion net in 2003–04.

Research Projects

Mr. Jack: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the research projects being undertaken by *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* Inland Revenue and Customs which are being paid for out of public funds. [1172]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury is undertaking four research projects at present which are being paid for out of public funds:

micro foundations of optimal fiscal stabilisation policy;

national Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) fiscal instruments project;

a series of research seminars on the Chinese economy; and

quantitative research to attitudes to local taxation.

For research activity funded by the HMRC external research budget the information can be found at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/activities.htm

Tax Avoidance Schemes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what additional taxation revenue has been collected as a consequence of the introduction of the requirement for sellers of tax avoidance schemes to register the schemes with his Department; [7585]

(2) what tax loopholes have been closed since 1997; and how much additional tax revenue that has been generated by such action. [7622]

Dawn Primarolo: Changes to taxation are set out in successive Financial Statement and Budget reports, alongside estimates of the effects on Government revenues anticipated at the time of their introduction. Given that tax measures interact and have complex behavioural and economic effects, it is extremely difficult to separately identify the revenue implications of past tax changes of this type for current levels of revenues.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many accountancy firms have been prosecuted by his Department for selling aggressive tax avoidance schemes since 1997. [7708]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC has not prosecuted any accountancy firms for selling aggressive tax avoidance schemes; selling an avoidance scheme would not normally involve activity that amounts to a criminal offence.

Tax Credits

Mr. McFall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many awards for *(a)* child and *(b)* working tax credit there were in the constituency of West Dunbartonshire in (i) 2003–04 and (ii) 2004–05; how many awards were (A) underpaid and (B) overpaid at (1) 5 April 2004 and (2) 5 April 2005; and what the total amounts involved were in each case. [7526]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC publications include estimates of numbers of in-work families (broken down by families with and without children) in each region, local authority and constituency with tax credits for 2003–04 awards, including information on underpayments and overpayments, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04. HMRC publications also provide more recent provisional estimates of numbers of in-work families, as at selected dates in 2004–05 for these areas. The constituency level breakdown refers to the constituencies that existed during the periods that the awards were in payment, but do not yet reflect constituency changes that occurred at the last general election. HMRC is currently producing new estimates based on the new constituency boundaries and hope to include them in the above publications very shortly.

The above mentioned publications can be found on the HMRC web site at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Estimates of numbers of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards at 5 April 2005 will not be available until after family circumstances and incomes for 2004–05 have been finalised.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in tax credits in 2004–05; and how much of that sum was overpayment now being claimed back. [7939]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of numbers of overpayments or underpayments for 2004–05 awards at 5 April 2005 will not be available until after family circumstances and incomes for 2004–05 have been finalised. The most recent estimates available for the net amount paid in tax credits and the net amount of overpayments is for awards at 5 April 2004 based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04. They appear in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Payments." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. This publication can be found on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the sum overpaid in tax credits in 2003–04 is estimated to be due to fraud. [7994]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs are currently reviewing a random sample of finalised 2003–04 awards—the first year of working tax credit and child tax credit—to measure the level of fraud and claimant error. However they will only be in a position to give an estimate of the level of fraud or error in next year, when the exercise has been completed.

Mrs. James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Swansea East have received *(a)* tax credits and *(b)* child tax credits since each was introduced. [7357]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the number of in-work families (broken down by families with and without children) in each region, local authority and constituency with tax credits for 2003–04 awards, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003–04, appear in the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Annual statistics. 2003–04 Geographical analyses." More recent provisional estimates for in-work families, as at selected dates in 2004–05, in each such area appear in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Geographical Statistics." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. These publications can be found on the HMRC web site at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Tax-related Convictions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for legislation under which accountancy firms would be required to declare tax-related convictions when filing tax returns for their clients. [7582]

Dawn Primarolo: That an accountancy firm had been prosecuted for tax-related offences is information that would already be known to HM Revenue and Customs and would be information in the public domain.

VAT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the scale of unpaid VAT as a percentage of the theoretical liability for VAT has been in each of the last 10 years for which data are available; and if he will make a statement. [7088]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to "Measuring and tackling indirect tax losses 2004", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House and available on the HM Revenue and Customs website.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* churches, *(b)* religious institutions and *(c)* sacred places in Northern Ireland have made use of the reduced VAT scheme introduced in the 2004 Budget. [7157]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since the introduction of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in April 2001, grants to refund VAT costs have been paid to 128 listed places of worship in Northern Ireland.

Since the extension of the scheme, from 1 April 2004, 57 listed places of worship in Northern Ireland have received grants covering the full amount of VAT paid on eligible works.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over state pension age have received working tax credit in the last two years, broken down by region; and what proportion of all childless recipients of working tax credit they represent in each case. [7683]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the number of childless recipients of working tax credit by region at selected dates since July 2003 appear in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Geographical Statistics." Estimates of the number of families with at least one member over state pension age who were receiving working tax credit as at April 2004 and April 2005, and the proportion of all childless family recipients of working tax credit they represent, are listed below. Both of these estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty, which is described in the above mentioned publication. This publication can be found on the HMRC web site at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Number and proportion of pensioner couples receiving WTC at for April 2004 and April 2005

	April 2004		April 2005	
Region	Pensioner Families Numbers (thousands)	Proportion Percentage	Pensioner Families Numbers (thousands)	Proportion Percentage
North East	0.7	4	0.7	3
North West	0.8	5	1.7	4
Yorks and The Humber	1.3	5	1.3	4
East Midlands	1.0	5	1.1	5
West Midlands	1.3	6	1.4	6
East	0.7	5	0.8	5
London	0.5	4	0.5	3
South East	0.9	5	1.0	5
South West	1.5	7	1.8	7
Wales	1.3	7	1.5	7
Scotland	1.2	4	1.3	4
Northern Ireland	0.5	6	0.8	8
All (including Unknown)	12.6	5	14.0	5

World Bank/IMF

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will press the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to end the practice of placing economic conditions on aid, loans and debt relief to developing countries. [7672]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have recently published a new policy paper, "Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: rethinking conditionality", which sets out our position on conditionality. Many developing countries and NGOs have expressed concerns about the use of conditionality in aid programmes. As set out in the policy paper, the Government believe that the relationship between donors and each developing country should be a partnership, based on shared commitments and priorities taken from the country's own poverty reduction strategy, and that progress should be measured against benchmarks from that strategy.

The UK is working to ensure that this is reflected in all the UK's bilateral programmes with developing countries. The World Bank and IMF are both undertaking reviews of their approach to conditionality this year. In the context of these reviews, the UK will work to ensure that these institutions support country-owned programmes and that conditions are not imposed externally.

Young Mothers

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers in each age cohort from 12 to 19 have given birth in each year since 2000-01. [7493]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. John Hemming, dated 28 June 2005:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many mothers in each age cohort from 12 to 19 have given birth in each year since 2000–01. (7493)

The table below shows maternities by age of mother in the UK for each calendar year from 2000 to 2003.

Maternities by age of mother, 2000–03, United Kingdom

Age	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
12	5	10	13	9
13	40	40	50	29
14	274	258	241	204
15	1,348	1,290	1,202	1,152
16	4,374	4,254	4,082	4,109
17	10,172	9,748	9,802	9,882
18	15,588	14,981	14,715	15,171
19	20,221	19,553	19,039	19,322

Sources:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether her Department will fully fund courses for adults at level 3 in Wirral in 2006–07. [7512]

Bill Rammell: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). In the Department's Grant Letter of 15 November 2004, the LSC was allocated £6.8 billion in 2006–07 for learning participation, which includes funding for adult education.

The White Paper "Skills: Getting on in Business, getting on at work" published in March 2005 set out our commitment to introduce a new National Employer Training Programme (NETP) based on the successful Employer Training Pilots. The new programme will commence from April 2006 and offer employers access to the full range of training solutions they need from including free Skills for Life and first full level 2 provision. Level 3 provision will be available through it but employers will need to make a contribution.

The White Paper also gives a commitment to trial, in two regions, providing an additional element of subsidy alongside a contribution from the employer for level 3 training delivered flexibly through NETP. We will invest an additional £20 million per year in 2006–07 and 2007–08 to assess the impact of that way of operating prior to taking final decisions on the routing of public funds for level 3 training through the National Employer Training Programme.

We are currently working with the LSC and others to identify the regions for the trials and expect to make an announcement shortly.

Catering

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations she has received about the content of the Level 1 Vocationally Related Qualification in Healthier Catering. [7244]

Jacqui Smith: We have not received any representations about the content of the Level 1 Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) in Healthier Catering. The qualification was developed by the Department together with the Food Standards Agency and People 1st, the Sector Skills Council for the hospitality industry. People 1st are taking the lead in accrediting the qualification with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, and representations relating to content of the qualification have been made directly to them.

Chemistry Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 370W, on student numbers, what her assessment is of the factors behind the uptake of chemistry by undergraduate students in higher education institutions in England since 1995–96. [6760]

Bill Rammell: Chapter 6 of the Government's "Science and innovation investment framework 2004–14" (HMSO, July 2004) discusses this in detail. Factors affecting the demand from students include teachers and their style of teaching; the teaching environment; the curriculum; public and media perception; and careers advice. There is also a perception by young people that science subjects are "more difficult".

Action being taken in response by Government and others includes: enhancing the quantity and quality of teachers in science and maths in schools and in further education with teacher training bursaries and "Golden Hellos"; supporting teachers' development through science learning centres; widening the variety of learning options to young people through curricular reforms; and raising the quality of careers education and guidance through partnership with schools and the Connexions Service.

City Academies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will place in the Library a copy of the admissions policy of each city academy; and which academies use the national normal distribution curve of ability as part of their admissions procedure. [6585]

Jacqui Smith: The funding agreements for each academy, including their agreed admissions policies, will shortly be made publicly available on the DfES website. I will notify the Library when this has been completed and will provide the web address from where they can be obtained.

There are no academies operating banding systems which use the national normal distribution curve of ability. The earliest academies opened in 2003, well after

the introduction of the requirement for fair banding contained within the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Dartington Tech

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funds have been made available to *(a)* the National Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* Dartington Tech in each of the of the last three years; and how much will be made available to Dartington Tech in this financial year. [5965]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* The budgets allocated to the Learning and Skills Council in each of the last three financial years, as notified in the relevant grant letters to the LSC are as follows:

Learning and skills council budgets 2002–2005

	Total (£ million)
2002–03	7,310.890
2003–04	8,095.374
2004–05	8,674.103

The funds allocated to Dartington Tech from all sources by the Learning and Skills Council are:

Dartington tech funding 2002–2005

	Total (£ million)
2002/03	1.78
2003/04	2.56
2004/05	2.88

Provisional budgets for 2005/06 are estimated to be £2.22 million.

Dyslexia

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support is given to primary schools to help them identify children with dyslexia. [5250]

Maria Eagle: When dealing with dyslexia, as with other recognised special educational needs, schools and local authorities are expected to have regard to the SEN Code of Practice, published in November 2001, which gives practical advice on carrying out their statutory duties to identify, assess and make suitable provision for children with SEN. However, the precise arrangements for any screening and assessment arrangements are for local determination.

Under the Primary National Strategy, the Department has produced an extensive range of specific guidance material for schools on evidence-based interventions for children with significant literacy and numeracy difficulties. A three wave model of intervention has been developed, designed to identify and support those children experiencing difficulty in literacy and/or mathematics, a good many of whom are likely to fall somewhere on the dyslexia spectrum. We have also produced guidance material on classroom strategies to enable dyslexic pupils to access learning and have recently released a new interactive CD-ROM based in-service training resource, "Learning and teaching for dyslexic children". This has been developed in collaboration with the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) and the Dyslexia Institute (DI). The resource is designed to help school staff increase their awareness and understanding of the barriers to learning presented by dyslexia, and the teaching strategies that can be used to overcome them.

The Department continues to work closely with both the BDA and DI to help raise awareness of dyslexia and encourage early intervention. We have, for example, given grant aid for the production of the BDA's "Achieving Dyslexia Friendly Schools" pack which promotes a whole-school approach to supporting pupils with dyslexia and provides examples of best practice. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State provided the foreword for the latest edition.

All schools receive a School Development Grant which can be used to support improvement in any aspect of teaching and learning, including the training of staff in SEN. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain circumstances, to provide specific training and development for SEN and disabilities.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what procedures are in place to detect dyslexia in children below school age. [5251]

Maria Eagle: Dyslexia is extremely difficult to identify in very young children until they begin to develop their literacy skills, and therefore signs of language delay is a more appropriate indicator term in early years. Early signs of dyslexia could include difficulties with speech and language, particularly with rhyming. All early education settings, in receipt of Government funding, must have regard to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice, published in November 2001. This gives practical advice to those settings in carrying out their statutory duties to identify, assess and make suitable provision for children with SEN, including those with specific learning difficulties such as delayed language development.

The Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, for children aged 3–5 years, of the National Curriculum makes clear that monitoring of each child's progress is essential and that any particular difficulties in any areas of learning are identified and addressed. This should form part of the statutory Foundation Stage Profile, and the reception teacher's on-going observational assessment of individual children to record their achievements in working towards their Early Learning Goals. These set out expectations as to what most children should achieve by the end of the Foundation Stage.

We are also working with the National Assessment Agency to provide materials to support the effective use of the Foundation Stage Profile for head teachers, and to help Year 1 teachers to continue to meet diverse learning needs.

Where children do not make the expected progress, or demonstrate difficulties acquiring language skills, then practitioners should be able to refer to the Area Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) or Speech and Language Therapist for additional support and advice. The most effective procedures will be

implemented via the Area SENCO who should be supporting practitioners to observe and assess children's progress, particularly where there is cause for concern, and then plan for next steps in learning. Local authority training to support children with difficulties (via Area SENCOs and SEN support services) will also assist in early identification.

As part of its Primary National Strategy, the Department has issued guidance on the early teaching of phonics, "Playing with sounds", which includes specific guidance on early identification and support for children who demonstrate the phonological difficulties often associated with dyslexia.

The Department has also issued guidance for the Foundation Stage practitioners in the form of a checklist of early indicators of potential dyslexia, through its Primary National Strategy professional development materials, "Learning and teaching for children with dyslexia".

EU Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 356W, on EU students, what her estimate is of the cost of maintenance support for 6,000 full time EU students studying in English institutions in academic year 2006/07 as a result of the changes made by her Department to regulations in the light of the ECJ ruling. [6750]

Bill Rammell: It is difficult to estimate the costs of maintenance support for EU students who may become eligible for support as a result of the regulation changes in the light of the ECJ ruling. As explained in the answer to PQ3979 there is uncertainty around forecasting numbers of students and we have limited information on the income distribution of EU students in order to estimate their entitlement to elements of the student support package. Based on that limited data we estimate that the additional cost of providing maintenance support for EU students that may become eligible for support as a result of the change in regulations would be around £10 million[1] in resource terms in financial year 2006–07[2].

[1] Rounded to the nearest £10 million

[2] This estimate covers part of the costs of students becoming eligible in Academic Year 2006/07 and part of the costs of students eligible in Academic Year 2005/06 because of phasing of payments.

Faith Schools

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what commitments were given in the recent re-organisation of primary schools in Vauxhall and Everton concerning the proposed *(a)* Trinity Roman Catholic primary school and *(b)* Faith primary school; and if she will make a statement. [6879]

Jacqui Smith: I am pleased to report that we are making a large commitment to the three voluntary aided schools that form part of the reorganisation in Vauxhall and Everton. Officials have been working with the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the local authority on how to proceed with the construction of the new schools. Discussions around Trinity Roman Catholic primary school are more advanced because of the urgency of the need at that school. With regard to Faith primary school, we have not yet been able to agree the design of the new school buildings and the precise level of funding, but it will be contained within the overall sum of £13 million allocated to three voluntary aided schools. This confirmation will mean that the design work can proceed as soon as possible.

Further and Higher Education

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what her estimate is of the *(a)* proportion of the total of and *(b)* contribution from public funds to adult education courses which focused on (i) leisure activities and (ii) Australian cake decorating in 2003–04. [6747]

Phil Hope: I have set out as follows information in the form requested for Adult and Community Learning provided through local education authorities in 2003–04, taken from the LSC's annual report for that year. These courses include a wide range of provision for personal and community development. Precise figures for leisure learning are not available. Information about individual course titles is not collected centrally.

2003–04

	£000	*Pecentage of adult programme expenditure*
Total LSC Adult programme expenditure	2,866,232	
Adult and community learning (LEAs)	172,129	6.0
Neighbourhood learning in deprived communities	26,849	0.9
Family learning and adult learning promotion	10,869	0.4
Total ACL related expenditure	209,847	7.3

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many times the Secretary of State has modified trust deeds or other instruments in exercise of the powers in section 46 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. [7046]

Bill Rammell: Section 46 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 permits the Secretary of State to modify trust deeds or other instruments relating to institutions within the further education (FE) sector. There have been no instances to date where the Secretary of State has exercised this power.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's birthday honours list; and at what rank of honour. [5119]

Maria Eagle: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

Lancashire Education Authority

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Government have allocated to Lancashire education authority in 2005–06; and how much of this sum is for school buildings. [7657]

Jacqui Smith: In 2005–06 Lancashire education authority has been allocated a total of £743.4 million. That includes Education Formula Spending (including the Schools Formula Spending Share and the LEA Formula Spending Share) of £624.2 million; Standards Fund support of £41.3 million; School Standards Grant of £22.7 million; Teachers Pay Reform Grant of £24.0 million; and schools capital funding of £31.2 million for school buildings.

Leadership Incentive Grant

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the future of the leadership and training grant; and whether she plans to extend the life of the grant. [6882]

Jacqui Smith: The Leadership Incentive Grant, which began in April 2003, is a three year pump-priming initiative designed to raise standards, strengthen leadership and stimulate collaboration among communities of schools to improve teaching and learning. There are no plans to extend the grant beyond March 2006.

NVQs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* funding and *(b)* training system is available for workplace assessors for NVQ level qualifications. [6602]

Phil Hope: The qualifications that are necessary to become an NVQ assessor are eligible for funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). It is for local LSCs and providers to agree provision which meets the needs of local areas. In addition, other sources of funding, for example private funding, can be used to fund these qualifications.

Overseas Students

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of the proportion of graduates from English universities from EU member states who went to work outside the UK following graduation in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [4847]

Bill Rammell: For 2002/03, of EU domiciled full time first degree graduates from English HE institutions whose destinations were known, my Department estimates that 21 per cent. were employed overseas six months after graduation.

For 2001/02 and earlier years, estimates are 13 per cent., 15 per cent., 16 per cent. and 13 per cent. for 2001/02, 2000/01, 1999/2000 and 1998/99 respectively.

Estimates for 2002/03 are not comparable with estimates for 2001/02 and earlier because of changes in the source information.

The available information on which these estimates were based, is shown in the tables.

EU[1,2] domiciled full time first degree graduates from English HE institutions by first destination six months after graduation, 1998/99 to 2001/02

First destination	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*
Employment in the UK[3]	1,035	910	1,000	965
Employment overseas[3]	855	925	925	715
Further Study in the UK[3]	2,385	2,355	2,220	2,270
Further Study overseas[3]	450	490	600	540
Overseas students returning overseas	1,220	815	815	590
Other[4]	495	355	520	600
Total	6,440	5,845	6,080	5,670
Survey response rate (percentage)	61	53	53	54

[1] Covers EU domiciled overseas students.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5, hence constituent parts may not sum due to totals.
[3] Location is only collected from employment and study.
[4] Includes those students with destinations of "Not available for employment", "Assumed unemployed", 'Other" and a small number of those employed or studying whose location is unknown.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) First Destination Supplement

EU[1,2] domiciled full time first degree graduates from English HE institutions by first destination[3] six months after graduation, 2002/03

First destination	*2002/03*
Employment in the UK[4]	1,100
Employment overseas[4]	1,010
Further Study only	2,130
Other	655
Total	4,895
Survey response rate (percentage)	61

[1] Covers EU domiciled overseas students.
[2] Figures are roupded to the nearest 5, hence constituent parts may not sum due to totals.
[3] Location is only collected for employment destinations.
[4] Includes students classed as "Work and further study'.
[5] Includes those students classed as "Further study only", 'Not available for employment", 'Assumed unemployed", 'Other" and a small number of those in employment whose location is unknown.
Sources:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Destination of Leavers from Higher Education

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) First Destination Supplement

Plater College

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money Plater college has received from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the bodies for which it is responsible in each of the last 20 years. [7045]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council allocated funds to Plater college as follows:

	£
2000–01	573,546
2001–02	590,033
2002–03	657,189
2003–04	742,206
2004–05	900,000

Information regarding the funding provided to Plater college from other sources or in previous years is not held centrally and cannot be readily retrieved without incurring disproportionate costs.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the date was of the Secretary of State's confirmation that there was proper governing documentation in place to enable Plater college to enter the further education sector in accordance with section 29 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. [7047]

Bill Rammell: Plater college is one of a small group of specialist designated colleges within the further education (FE) sector. This group of colleges were designated as suitable to receive funding and entered the FE sector in 1993. The approval of the Plater college governing documentation was part of the designation process. The college was designated as an institution in the FE sector by statutory instrument 1993/435 which came into effect on 1 April 1993.

School Build (Waltham Forest)

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much public funding has been spent on *(a)* building and *(b)* repairing schools in Waltham Forest in each year since 1997. [6110]

Jacqui Smith: Decisions on how capital resources should be invested in schools are taken by the local education authority in accordance with locally prepared asset management plans. The following table shows capital resources allocated to Waltham Forest local education authority and its schools since 1997:

Capital resources allocated to Waltham Forest since 1997

	£000
1997–98	1,838
1998–99	2,823
1999–2000	[1] 23,199
2000–01	8,116
2001–02	9,613
2002–03	[2] 66,949
2003–04	10,364
2004–05	10,260
2005–06	10,752

[1] Including £18.5 million PFI credit
[2] Including £53.6 million PFI credit

The Department is in discussions with the Waltham Forest LEA about its revenue expenditure figures. I will write to my hon. Friend when these are available.

School Meals

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school children in Lancashire *(a)* receive free school meals and *(b)* pay for school meals, broken down by district. [6605]

Jacqui Smith: The available information about take up and eligibility for free school meals is given in the tables. Information about the number of children who pay for school meals is not collected centrally.

Maintained nursery and primary schools[1]: school meal arrangements
Position in January each year. 2004 and 2005 (provisional)
Districts in Lancashire local education authority area

	2004				
	Number on roll[2]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[3]*	*Percentage of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Blackburn with Darwen	154	5	3.2	6	3.9
Burnley	8,736	1,641	18.8	2,015	23.1
Chorley	8,754	810	9.3	980	11.2
Fylde	5,002	388	7.8	446	8.9
Hyndburn	8,123	1,290	15.9	1,600	19.7
Lancaster	10,656	1,451	13.6	1,750	16.4
Pendle	8,222	1,393	16.9	1,691	20.6
Preston	11,907	1,965	16.5	2,408	20.2
Ribble Valley	4,933	191	3.9	247	5.0
Rossendale	6,152	824	13.4	956	15.5
South Ribble	8,733	736	8.4	847	9.7
West Lancashire	9,713	1,307	13.5	1,579	16.3
Wyre	8,015	853	10.6	1,020	12.7
Lancashire local education authority area	99,100	12,854	13.0	15,545	15.7

	2005 (provisional)[5]				
	Number on roll[2]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals*[3]	*Percentage of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Blackburn with Darwen	160	10	3.2	10	3.9
Burnley	8,450	1,510	17.6	1,890	22.3
Chorley	8,650	740	8.5	900	10.4
Fylde	4,900	370	7.6	440	8.9
Hyndburn	8,050	1,260	15.6	1,520	18.8
Lancaster	10,410	1,370	13.2	1,660	16.0
Pendle	8,110	1,310	16.1	1,600	19.7
Preston	11,600	1,840	15.9	2,220	19.1
Ribble Valley	4,890	180	3.6	200	4.2
Rossendale	6,040	730	12.0	810	13.4
South Ribble	8,540	690	8.1	780	9.2
West Lancashire	9,580	1,190	12.4	1,450	15.1
Wyre	7,790	790	10.1	930	11.9
Lancashire local education authority area	97,150	11,980	12.3	14,400	14.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes dually registered pupils.
[3] Number of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the census in January.
[4] Provisional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Maintained secondary schools[1]: school meal arrangements
Position in January each year. 2004 and 2005 (provisional)
Districts in Lancashire local education authority area

	2004				
	Number on roll[2]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals*[3]	*Percentage of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Blackburn with Darwen	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Burnley	6,474	1,168	18.0	1,479	22.8
Chorley	5,805	493	8.5	554	9.5
Fylde	3,883	237	6.1	284	7.4
Hyndburn	5,114	867	17.0	952	18.6
Lancaster	9,082	826	9.1	1,084	11.9
Pendle	5,799	1,044	18.0	1,199	20.7
Preston	7,281	1,223	16.8	1,416	19.4
Ribble Valley	5,178	245	4.7	288	5.6
Rossendale	5,451	641	11.8	752	13.8
South Ribble	8,610	641	7.4	781	9.1
West Lancashire	7,045	1,061	15.1	1,127	16.0
Wyre	6,992	533	7.6	680	9.7
Lancashire local education authority area	76,694	8,979	11.7	10,596	13.8

	2005 (provisional)[4]				
	Number on roll[2]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals*[3]	*Percentage of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Blackburn with Darwen	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Burnley	6,400	1,070	16.7	1,400	21.9
Chorley	5,810	430	7.4	500	8.5
Fylde	3,830	240	6.2	270	7.0
Hyndburn	5,090	860	17.0	920	18.1
Lancaster	9,040	840	9.3	990	11.0
Pendle	5,600	950	17.0	1,040	18.6
Preston	7,160	1,110	15.6	1,300	18.2
Ribble Valley	5,260	200	3.8	260	4.9
Rossendale	5,390	560	10.4	660	12.2

	2005 (provisional)[4]				
	Number on roll[2]	Number of pupils taking free school meals[3]	Percentage of pupils taking free school meals	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
South Ribble	8,500	610	7.2	770	9.0
West Lancashire	7,050	970	13.8	1,090	15.4
Wyre	6,860	480	7.0	660	9.6
Lancashire local education authority area	75,960	8,320	11.0	9,850	13.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes dually registered pupils.
[3] Number of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the census in January.
[4] Provisional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] Not applicable
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether schools that have opted out of local authority catering contracts will be eligible for access to the £280 million package to improve school dinners announced by her Department on 30 March. [7150]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Over the three years 2005–06 to 2007–08 all maintained schools in England, regardless of their type of school meal provision, will receive a share of the £220 million set aside to help local education authorities and schools strengthen their support for healthy eating and to provide better quality food. Of this, £30 million each year will go to schools to help them meet transitional costs, and £30/£50/£50 million will go to LEAs to enable them to support schools to improve the quality of their meals, with an emphasis on schools in deprived areas and schools starting from a low base.

The first instalment of this additional funding will be available to schools and LEAs this autumn. Further details about the distribution of both grants between individual local authorities and schools will be announced over the summer.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in *(a)* what circumstances and *(b)* in how many cases in the past three years she and her predecessor exercised powers to direct a school to meet school lunch standards. [7245]

Jacqui Smith: We have not directed any school to meet school lunch standards during the past three years.

Special Schools

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many special schools have closed since 1997. [5932]

Jacqui Smith: There have been 240 special school closures in England within the period January 1997 to January 2005, with some 121 schools opening in the same period (nine of which subsequently closed and are counted above) giving a net reduction in special schools of 119 in the period. This compares to 234 closures between 1986–97.

Spending per Pupil

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the spending per pupil was in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools in (i) 1985 and (ii) in the last year for which figures are available. [7213]

Jacqui Smith: The information is as follows.

School based expenditure[1] per pupil[2] in cash terms 1985–86 and 2003–04[3,4] in England—as reported by LEAs as at 23 June 2005

£

	1985–86	2003–04
Primary	820	2,750
Secondary	1,180	3,550
Special	4,040	14,050

[1] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees, charges, rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
[2] Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending LEA maintained schools and are drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
[3] 1999–2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by the ODPM to the section 52 form from the DfES. 2003–04 is the latest year for which figures are available.
[4] The main difference between 1985–86 and 2003–04 is that meals and milk are no longer excluded and that no adjustments for balances are now made. However, 1985–86 also includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory payments and other indirect employee expenses, while in 2003–04 only the schools element of these categories is included. Also, for some LEAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LEA part of the section 52 form in 2003–04 and would therefore be excluded, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and are in cash terms.

Sure Start

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether she expects the current level of Sure Start provision in Everton to continue. [6901]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Everton in Liverpool has benefited from both the trailblazer Sure Start West Everton and Breckfield local programme approved in 1999 and the Everton Early Childhood Centre (EEC) approved in February 2001

which are based on the same site. The building was developed with local and national Government funding including both the Sure Start and Early Excellence programmes. The Sure Start local programme and the EEC were brought together and designated as one of the first integrated children's centres in June 2003.

For 2005/06 the Sure Start revenue funding for this children's centre is currently:

	Amount (£)
Sure Start Local Programme Revenue	787,623
Early Excellence Centre Revenue	75,647
Total Revenue Funding 2005/06	863,270

From 2006/07 funding will begin to taper for the "trailblazer" local programmes as part of the planned process of incorporation in to mainstream services. Everton's Sure Start local programme funding for 2006/07 will be £590,717. Early Excellence Centres have been funded until March 2006. However, Liverpool local authority will receive children's centre funding of £2,955,804 for 2004–06 and £9,025,886 for 2006–08. This is to support existing children's centres like Everton as well as to develop more. We expect Early Years provision to be maintained and to grow through children's centres, so that by 2010 there is a children's centre for every community. The Sure Start budget will more than double to £1.8 million by 2008. Exactly how and when this funding is used to support children's centres is a matter for the local authority to decide based on their assessment of existing provision, levels of deprivation and families needs.

Tuition Fees

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was raised from higher education tuition fees in each education authority in England in *(a)* 2002–03, *(b)* 2003–04 and *(c)* 2004–05; from how many students the sums were raised in each case; and what the average payment was in each year. [6328]

Bill Rammell: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

HOME OFFICE

Abduction of African children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures his Department has taken to prevent abduction of African children in England and Wales. [4649]

Paul Goggins: Under section 1(1) of the Child Abduction Act 1984, it is an offence for a person connected with a child under the age of 16 (for example a parent or guardian) to take or send the child out of the UK without the appropriate consent.

The Act also criminalises abduction by other persons. Under section 2(1) of the 1984 Act, a person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he takes or detains a child under 16 so as to: *(a)* remove him from the lawful control of any person having lawful control of the child; or *(b)* keep him out of the lawful control of any person entitled to lawful control of the child.

Ultimately, it is for the police to decide whether to prefer any charges and the Crown Prosecution Service to determine whether to proceed with a prosecution. Only the courts can decide if an offence has been committed.

The maximum penalty, on summary conviction, for an offence of abduction is six months' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both. The maximum penalty, on conviction on indictment, is seven years' imprisonment.

Anti-terrorism Legislation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to implement the recommendations made by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC in his review of the operation of anti-terror laws. [3567]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I will shortly be placing copies in the House Library of the Government response to Lord Carlile. This will outline progress made on the recommendations made in his report on the operation in 2004 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for the work that he has undertaken which has found that overall the Act continues to be fit for purpose.

Biometric Information

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has collated on which other countries are *(a)* planning and *(b)* using biometric information on (i) passports and (ii) identification cards. [6161]

Andy Burnham: All the Schengen states will be required to use biometrics in passports under Council Regulation 2252/2004. These biometric are facial images and finger prints, which will be introduced by 18 months and three years respectively for the date of adoption. Non-Schengen states may choose to follow the requirements, though they would not be bound by the timetable. Similar information has not been collated for Non-EU states. All ED member states which issue identity cards are considering introducing biometrics to increase security. This is part of a world-wide move towards using biometrics in travel and other identity documents, not an EU requirement as there is no legal basis for the Community to act on identity cards. Our information on current procedures is that biometric information is only currently stored on the Italian national identity card. Among non-EU states, Hong Kong currently includes biometric information on its national identity cards and Thailand is planning their introduction.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Passport Service expects to issue biometric passports in accordance with US requirements. [6178]

Andy Burnham: The UK Passport Service plans to commence the introduction of biometric passports in February 2006 and to be producing the new passport for all its customers by end of July 2006. The new passport

will comply in all respects to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards for biometric passports.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the cost of producing biometric passports *(a)* to comply with US requirements and *(b)* with a facial recognition biometric obtained in the most cost-effective manner. [6187]

Andy Burnham: The UK Passport Service has not finally completed commercial negotiations with its security printers Security Printing and Systems Ltd on the production of the biometric passport, so is not in a position to provide the cost estimate requested.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the accuracy of biometric readings. [4137]

Mr. McNulty: We have taken a number of steps to assess the accuracy of biometric readings. We have closely reviewed leading scientific evidence in the field; consulted with biometric experts from academia and industry; sought to build on the experience and knowledge of other organisations, such as IND, PITO and Communications-Electronic Security Group's (CESG's) biometric readings group and we have conducted a review of the experiences of other examples of biometric systems, including systems holding millions of sample records. Current thinking is that three separate biometrics will be recorded (iris image; fingerprints and facial recognition) which would increase the accuracy of biometric readings from individuals. In addition, we will keep emerging research in this field under constant review and it is envisaged we will hold performance tests during procurement and the early phase of implementation of the ID card scheme.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of automatic face recognition technology; and if he will make a statement. [4796]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office and UKPS (UK Passport Service) have examined the use of facial recognition as part of the biometric enrolment trial. This was not a technology evaluation but supported the view that facial recognition has applications in 1-to-1 matching but is not suitable for matching against very large numbers of records. Facial recognition is still being considered as one of the biometric technologies which may be used for Identity Cards. Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) has an active biometrics programme and maintains awareness of many biometric and human identification technologies, including facial recognition. PITO is engaged in producing a facial images database for identification purposes as part of the Facial Images National Database (FIND) project which should complete in 2006. UKPS is currently assessing the suitability of automatic face recognition technology for use within the passport application process for detecting fraudulent applications. A standalone Automatic Face Recognition (AFR) system is being deployed in the UKPS's seven fraud and intelligence units to help prove the concept and to establish the benefits of using AFR, and assist in the development of technical and operational specifications for full system integration. The UKPS plan to complete their assessment by the end of 2005.

CCTV Cameras

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many CCTV cameras are currently operated by police in England and Wales. [4608]

Hazel Blears: CCTV cameras in England and Wales are operated by a wide variety of organisations including the police, as well as local authorities, the retail sector and train operating companies. Information on the number of cameras operated by the police is not held centrally.

Criminal Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force recovered from the proceeds of crime in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [5793]

Hazel Blears: Police force performance on recovering the proceeds of crime is measured by the value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by a force. The value of orders obtained by each police force in 2004–05 is shown in the table.

Police force	*Total value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by the police service in 2004–05*
Metropolitan Police Service	26,426,648.39
National Crime Squad	11,940,373.79
Lancashire Constabulary	3,743,146.94
Greater Manchester Police	3,453,431.70
Merseyside Police	2,908,711.21
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	2,695,434.41
Derbyshire Constabulary	2,540,453.70
West Yorkshire Police	2,265,457.57
City of London Police	2,211,123.08
West Midlands Police	2,053,433.63
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	1,959,930.23
Kent Police	1,926,936.62
Police Service of Northern Ireland	1,769,094.32
Nottinghamshire Police	1,336,612.41
South Yorkshire Police	1,330,077.48
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	1,182,881.95
Cumbria Constabulary	1,124,156.05
Northamptonshire Police	1,063,417.47
Dorset Police	1,050,401.06
Sussex Police	1,002,181.72
West Mercia Constabulary	999,467.06
Norfolk Constabulary	911,868.06
Northumbria Police	909,645.62
Leicestershire Constabulary	891,588.29
Thames Valley Police	750,663.61
Surrey Police	648,947.84
Cheshire Constabulary	541,557.19
Wiltshire Constabulary	482,559.71
Durham Constabulary	477,399.45
Gwent Police	442,673.90
Hertfordshire Constabulary	440,353.93
Suffolk Constabulary	430,715.69
South Wales Police	400,577.52
Gloucestershire Constabulary	390,468.23
Hampshire Constabulary	333,792.86
Lincolnshire Police	307,912.23
British Transport Police	281,376.94
Staffordshire Police	260,405.82
Humberside Police	255,656.67
Cleveland Police	230,220.07
North Yorkshire Police	205,081.94
Dyfed-Powys Police	201,061.20

Police force	Total value of cash forfeitures and confiscation orders obtained by the police service in 2004–05
Essex Police	192,804.57
Bedfordshire Police	154,828.69
North Wales Police	109,758.12
Warwickshire Police	57,357.29

Criminal Records Bureau

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress of implementing the Basic Disclosure by the Criminal Records Bureau and if he will bring forward legislation to activate the offence of Enforced Subject Access under Section 56 of the Data Protection Act 1998. [4576]

Andy Burnham: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) will undertake a feasibility study into the launch of a Basic Disclosure service during the current financial year. The offence of Enforced Subject Access under Section 56 of the Data Protection Act will be commenced in England and Wales at such time as the CRB is providing a Basic Disclosure service.

Identity Cards

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the robustness of available technology to meet the requirements of the proposed identity card scheme. [6162]

Andy Burnham: Given constant advancement of biometric technology and the need to conduct a fair and thorough procurement process, rather than focus on the technology available at the present time, much of which may be superseded by the time cards are first issued, we are working with other Departments and with expert advisers to set the requirements for performance of future technology. However, naturally, this work has included a review of baseline technologies available now. In particular this has included: a review of the technology used elsewhere in government; engagement with other governments with experience in the field (e.g. US, Hong Kong, Philippines, UAE); in depth review of current and emerging scientific evidence in the field; engagement with independent experts in the field (e.g. Communications-Electronic Security Group, National Physical Laboratory, San Jose University, National Institute of Standards and Technology, PA consulting).

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has collated on which other countries have an identity card scheme; and when each scheme was introduced. [6163]

Andy Burnham: Information collated by the Home Office on other countries with an identity card scheme, which includes some introduction dates, is available in the publication Entitlement Cards and Identity Fraud—A Consultation Paper [CM 5557]

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many digits he expects to be printed on identity cards; and what information he has collated on the number of digits required on passports and identity cards by other countries. [6164]

Andy Burnham: No fingerprints will be printed on the face of the identity card. Biometric information, including under current plans 10 fingerprints, will be held securely on the National Identity Register. Some of the fingerprint data could be held in an encrypted form on the card chip. All the Schengen states will be required to use biometrics in passports under Council Regulation 2252/2004. Fingerprint biometrics (rather than just fingerprints) will be introduced within three years of adoption. Non-Schengen states may choose to follow the requirements, although they would not be bound by the timetable. Other EU member states which issue identity cards are considering introducing biometrics to increase security and some, for example Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, already collect one or more fingerprints as part of their national identity card schemes. Among non-EU states, Hong Kong and the Philippines currently include fingerprint information on their identity card schemes.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the assumption in CM 6020 that once the validity period expires, an automatic replacement identity card would be provided free of charge, remains the Government's policy. [6179]

Andy Burnham: No such assumption was made in CM 6020 on 12 November 2003 and decisions have yet to be taken about the detailed fee structure for ID cards.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 320–21W, on on-line identity verification, whether the costs of infrastructure additional to the parts of the central IT infrastructure which will support identity verification services is included in the £584 million figure. [6201]

Andy Burnham: The current best estimate of the total average annual running costs for issuing passports and ID cards to UK nationals and running a verification service is £584 million at 2005–06 prices and has been published in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). This includes the cost of operating and maintaining the verification services. As outlined in the RIA user organisations will be expected to cover the cost of biometric readers.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 157–58W, on identity cards, (1) if he will disaggregate the total average annual running costs for issuing passports and identity cards to show the estimated costs for *(a)* online verification to validate identity cards and other identity enquiries from user organisations, *(b)* operating and maintaining (i) those parts of the central IT infrastructure that will support identity verification services and (ii) additional central infrastructure and *(c)* recording and matching face, fingerprint and iris biometric information; [6202]

(2) what his estimate is of the cost of *(a)* introducing and *(b)* maintaining a database containing (i) facial biometrics and (ii) facial, iris and fingerprint biometrics in combination for the population of the UK who are 16 years and over. [6377]

Andy Burnham: It would not be appropriate to release this information in advance of procurement as this may put at risk the Department's ability to secure value for money.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information will be held on the national identity card register to establish a person's entitlement to free NHS treatment. [6733]

Mr. McNulty: The information to be kept on the National Identity Register is set out in Schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Bill. Entitlement to free treatment is not included in the Schedule, neither is it a registrable fact as defined in Clause 1(5) of the Identity Cards Bill. This means that such information could not be held on the National Identity Register unless approved by further primary legislation. However, information contained on the National Identity Register, for example about a person's immigration status, could be relevant to decisions on whether an individual is entitled to free NHS treatment.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which commercial companies his Department has held discussions about the proposed identity card scheme. [4606]

Andy Burnham: The Identity Cards programme is currently in the pre-procurement "development" phase. In conducting its activities, discussions have taken place with a range of commercial organisations. These discussions have, to date, focused on technical feasibility, benefits case development and general communications with the market as part of the "early market engagement" recommended by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) as best practice in public sector procurements. The ultimate aim of conducting these discussions is to ensure that an appropriate and effective procurement strategy is developed resulting in a competitive procurement and successful implementation.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to issue identity cards to newly arrived asylum seekers. [4146]

Mr. McNulty: There are no plans to issue newly arrived asylum seekers with Identity Cards as it is difficult to check the biographical footprint of asylum seekers as they arrive in the UK without any documents to confirm their identity. Asylum seekers are issued with biometric Asylum Registration Cards (ARC) which contains a fingerprint of the individual that it has been issued to. The biometric ARC card is used to prevent an individual lodging multiple applications for asylum. Clause 2(4) of the Identity Cards Bill allows an entry for an individual to be made in the Register (whether or not he has applied to be, or is entitled to be entered in it) if the Secretary of State considers that the addition of the entry to the Register would be consistent with the statutory purposes. This clause will allow a failed asylum seeker to be entered into the Register to ensure that they cannot assume a different identity while they remain in the UK or if they make a subsequent attempt to enter the UK. An asylum seeker who is granted leave to remain will be entitled to be registered on the ID cards scheme.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure the security of the National Identity Register. [4171]

Andy Burnham: In the interests of maintaining the security of the National Identity Register, it is not possible to reveal any proposed security mechanisms for the Scheme. However, the National Identity Register will be a highly secure system, and will be formally Security Accredited in accordance with Government policy. The policy can be found at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cisa/publications/index.asp. The National Identity Register will also comply with the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation.

The programme is working with acknowledged security specialists, Communication Electronic Security Group, National Infrastructure Security Co-ordination Centre and other organisations to ensure appropriate measures are in place to maintain a secure and resilient system.

The Identity Cards Bill includes a clause which makes it a criminal offence to disclose information without lawful authority. This includes information relating to the Register, the issuing of ID Cards or the functions of the National Identity Scheme Commissioner. This is set out in clause 29 of the Bill. A person found guilty of an offence under this section is liable for up to two years imprisonment. A separate offence of tampering with the Register attracts a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment.

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Department will take to ensure that identity cards will not be required to be produced by those subject to stop and search, with particular reference to stop and search of black and ethnic minority individuals. [4406]

Andy Burnham: There will be no requirement to carry an ID card at all times, this is specifically prohibited in the Identity Cards Bill, in addition police officers do not have a power under the Bill to stop someone and demand to see an identity card although there is nothing to prevent an individual choosing to provide an identity card voluntarily.

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contingency plans the Department is making in the event that the identity card technology goes wrong. [4409]

Andy Burnham: We are planning for the scheme to comply with industry best practice business continuity and disaster recovery processes to ensure that the core business is able to function in the event of a major disruption or loss of technical infrastructure

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Department has made of the extent to which the introduction of identity cards will eliminate identity theft perpetrated over the telephone. [4412]

Andy Burnham. The Identity Cards Programme team is working closely with experts in the field of remote authentication (i.e. verifying people's identities when using the internet, telephone and post) in order to establish a more secure method of verifying an identity than currently possible.

Reference research has shown that use of the ID card with certain processes will permit an improvement in the level of assurance possible via remote authentication.

This research to date has focused on the concept of a "challenge response" process, which allows for the generation of a one-off password for a person to use for an individual transaction. Due to the one-time nature of the response generated, anyone trying to impersonate another individual to obtain information about others for criminal purpose or to perpetrate fraud will be greatly hindered.

Specific details regarding the research cannot be made public due to issues of commercial sensitivity prior to procurement.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he expects information held on individuals under the proposals in the Identity Cards Bill to be shared with *(a)* international agencies and *(b)* other governments. [6778]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 June 2005]*: The Identity Cards Bill does not allow for information in the National Identity Register to be provided without the consent of the individual other than in the specific circumstances outlined as follows.

There are very strictly limited circumstances, outlined in Clause 20(2) of the Identity Cards Bill, when information could be provided without consent for any of the purposes specified in sections 17(2)*(a)* to *(d)* of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. This would allow for the disclosure of information for the purposes of prevention and detection of crime overseas. This may involve the provision of information to international agencies or other governments.

However, provision of this information can only be made subject to the rules laid out in Clause 23 of the Identity Cards Bill. In addition, under Clause 20(3), the Secretary of State can prohibit the provision of information without consent for use in overseas proceedings, under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, as specified in section 18 of that Act. For example the Secretary of State might do this if he considered that it would be more appropriate for these proceedings to be conducted in a court of the United Kingdom.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he expects biometric details of victims of *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* rape and *(c)* sexual abuse would be removed from the National Identity Register to protect the individual. [6787]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 June 2005]*: Removing the biometrics of these victims would not add any additional protection to the individual. Thus, biometrics would not be removed from the National Identity Register—they are necessary to ensure that a person does not attempt to enrol into the Scheme more than once. However, we recognise the importance of security of personal details to vulnerable members of society. Our processes are being designed to ensure this is maintained.

For example, once enrolled, biometrics are used for two purposes: (1) to verify that a person is the authentic card holder, and (2) to authorise release of information during a verification check. In each of these instances, there would be security measures in place to ensure that person conducting the transaction is the actual cardholder and is providing their own biometric. A release of information in the second instance can usually only happen with consent of the individual involved.

In cases where information is provided without consent those requesting information are strictly limited and traceable.

Those responsible for administering the scheme including administration staff will not themselves be authorised to perform a search for a cardholder's individual records. As the National Identity Register will be held at a high protective marking, only security cleared staff will have access to the National Identity Register. The independent oversight and auditing of working processes in data centres would detect any such search in real-time and identify those responsible. Clause 29 of the Identity Cards Bill makes it a criminal offence, subject to imprisonment for up to two years and/or a fine, for any person to provide without lawful authority, information from the scheme to a third party.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 157–58W on identity cards, if he will disaggregate the total average annual running costs for supporting users of the on-line verification service via a helpdesk. [7227]

Andy Burnham: It would not be appropriate to release this information in advance of procurement as this may put at risk the Department's ability to secure value for money.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what components are included by the current best estimate of £93 for the unit cost of an adult passport and identity card given in paragraph 22 of the Identity Cards Bill Regulatory Impact Assessment. [7228]

Andy Burnham: The estimate of £93 includes all the operational costs for issuing Identity Cards and passports to UK nationals for the 10 year validity period. It excludes the costs of the verification service and equipment, such as card readers, required by user organisations. It includes allowance for contingency, optimism bias and non-recoverable VAT.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the set-up costs that will be incurred after the first identity cards and biometric passports are issued as referred to in paragraph 19 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment on the Identity Cards Bill. [7229]

Andy Burnham: It would not be appropriate to release this information in advance of procurement as it is commercially sensitive. The identity cards programme is in the pre-procurement phase, during procurement this information could be used by suppliers to estimate what

we expect to pay for the contracts they are bidding for. This would prejudice the Department's ability to secure value for money solutions from the market.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on how married people who wish to use both their pre-marriage and post-marriage name will be dealt with under the proposed identity card scheme; and whether it will be possible for them to have two cards. [7230]

Andy Burnham: Final decisions have not yet been taken regarding the name policy for the Identity Cards scheme. However, we are aware of the needs of those who use both their pre-marriage and post-marriage names. The Identity Cards Bill allows for a person to include "other names by which they are Known" on the National Identity Register and we are looking at various solutions on how to represent this on the card for UK citizens. We continue to investigate how both names could be used for verification purposes. Current work indicates that it should not be necessary to provide two cards to enable married people to use both their pre-marriage and post-marriage names. In the case of foreign nationals, their name on the card will be required to match what is on their passport for immigration purposes.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a decision has been made on the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of centres where biometric information may be collected. [7231]

Andy Burnham: We are currently planning a network of enrolment centres where applicants to the ID cards scheme will have a biometrics recorded and a short meeting with a member of the new agency's staff. Work on defining the number and location of centres is not yet complete. On 21 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 171WS, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Mr. Browne) provided a written statement to the House announcing "some 70" new offices being required for the first phase of the UKPS Authentication by Interview (ABI) project, while this forms part of the building blocks towards the identity cards programme these offices do not necessarily form part of the enrolment centre provision. The identity cards programme enrolment network is being designed to enable people to obtain a card with minimum inconvenience. The number and location of centres is being developed based on: Convenience for applicant, considering travel distance and time, travel to work areas, public transport availability and patterns: Minimum workable size of centre, considering staffing issues, security and avoiding collusion: Overall cost of the enrolment centre network. In addition to the enrolment centres the identity cards programme enrolment plans also include the use of mobile facilities, although at this stage it is not yet known how many of these facilities there will be.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what failure rate in recognising biometric data in the proposed identity cards would be considered acceptable. [3174]

Mr. McNulty: The level of acceptability in relation to biometric check failure rates is a balance between biometric performance and system cost. The exact level is still being determined through stakeholder consultation. Current thinking is that several biometric readings will be recorded, i.e. fingerprint, iris image and facial recognition, which would increase the accuracy of any biometric checks.

Identity Fraud/Theft

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of his estimate of the total cost of identity fraud constitutes *(a)* credit card fraud and *(b)* identity theft. [5839]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 20 June 2005]*: The Cabinet Office study published in 2002 estimated that the minimum cost of identity fraud to the economy is in excess of £1.3 billion per annum. The study estimates that £370 million of the overall figure is attributable to credit card fraud. This includes use of counterfeit cards, cards lost or stolen and card not present fraud. All of the costs estimated in the Cabinet Office study are associated with identity theft. Losses, however, are not generally incurred until a criminal has obtained a victims personal details through identity theft and used them to commit fraud.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* methodology and *(b)* sources were used for the calculation of the cost of identity theft in Appendix B of Identity Fraud: A Study, of July 2002. [6916]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The Cabinet Office formed a cross-departmental team to estimate the cost of identity fraud to the UK economy. The study involved examination of direct financial losses, such as those incurred when false identities are used to fraudulently obtain credit. It also examined the costs incurred by enforcement and other agencies that encounter individuals who use false identities to obtain services fraudulently. This included costing the resources needed to carry out investigations. The sources that were used for the calculation of the cost of identity fraud were, HM Customs and Excise (now HM Revenue and Customs), Department of Health, Department of Work and Pensions, Immigration Service, Association of Payment Clearing Services, insurance companies and CIFAS, the UK's Fraud Prevention Service.

Illegal Labour

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which sections of commerce, agriculture or industry feature most prominently as employers of illegal labour. [4554]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected but the immigration service carries out visits to employers in relation to illegal migrant working on an intelligence-led basis, and the breakdown of this operational activity provides the best available indicator of which sectors feature most prominently as employers of illegal labour. During the financial year 2004–05, the main business sectors visited were: hospitality (42 per cent. of visits); carwashes and garages (8 per cent.); food production (6 per cent.); retail (6 per cent.); employment and cleaning agencies (5 per cent.); factories and warehouses (5 per cent.); sex industry (5 per cent.); nursing and care homes (1 per cent.); construction industry (1 per cent.);

sports entertainment (1 per cent.); horticulture and agriculture (1 per cent.); other sectors (4 per cent.). A further 15 per cent. of visits were made to the home addresses of individuals suspected of working in the United Kingdom illegally in various sectors.

Immigration

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take to tackle forgery of indefinite leave to remain documents. [302]

Mr. Charles Clarke: In order to promote effective end-to-end migration control and ensure that the UK's borders are secure, tackling forgery of indefinite leave to remain documents is a priority for the immigration and nationality directorate (IND).

In line with the EU free movement of persons directive (directive 2004/38/EC), with which IND must comply by 30 April 2006, steps are being taken to replace the current system of residence documentation issued to EEA nationals and their family members with a new suite of secure documents. Close consultation with the national document fraud unit (NDFU) has established consideration of document security at the very forefront of the design and procurement process. The prevention of forgery and abuse is an issue that will continue to determine the format that these new residence documents will take.

In 2003 the United Kingdom issued a new form of secure residence permit sticker for other foreign nationals. This is a common-format permit issued by all member states of the European Union and European economic area and is produced to a design in which the United Kingdom participated. The permit contains a digital image of the holder and is applied in their passport after the document's authenticity and the holder's entitlement have been verified. To date no falsifications of this document have been identified.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to immigration officials on assessing whether passports and other immigration documents are genuine. [303]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The lead role in protecting the United Kingdom from the use of fraudulent travel documentation is taken by the immigration and nationality directorate intelligence service (INDIS), national document fraud unit (NDFU), which is recognised both at home and abroad as a leader in its field.

Forgery detection training is provided to all new immigration officers, assistant immigration officers and entry clearance (or visa) officers as part of their induction courses. The NDFU delivers a comprehensive range of intermediate and advanced level training to the immigration service's (IS) forgery officers, who provide consolidation training to their IS colleagues at local ports and enforcement offices.

The NDFU provides IS staff and forgery officers with up to date detection equipment and frequent information about all aspects of travel document abuse. It also provides other staff working within the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) with training and forgery detection information and equipment.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the backlog is of applications for each category of leave to remain in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [6919]

Mr. McNulty: As at 31 May 2005, there were 57,792 outstanding non-asylum applications for further leave to remain. These consisted of 20,107 charged applications, which represents a normal work in progress level which we expect to decide in line with our current service standards as shown on the immigration and nationality directorate website, and 37,685 non-charged applications. The non-charged cases include 10,074 European cases, 8,538 European Community Association Agreement (ECAA) cases and 12,731 indefinite leave from exceptional leave cases. ECAA casework was suspended until recently and has now resumed which has caused these applications to be delayed.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases the detention of children under immigration law for more than 28 days has been subject to ministerial authorisation since 1 January 2004; and if he will make a statement. [4678]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not part of the published statistics in the public domain.

Children are usually detained for very short periods. We only seek to detain children over 28 days in exceptional circumstances.

Iranian Repatriation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's current policy on the repatriation of Iranian nationals who are seeking asylum in the United Kingdom is. [4487]

Mr. McNulty: Asylum and human rights claims by Iranian nationals are, like those of all claimants, from all countries, considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). If the claimant meets the definition of a refugee in the 1951 Refugee Convention, they are granted asylum. If they do not qualify for asylum, but there are other circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and engage our obligations under the ECHR, they are granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave.

Passports

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the minimum technical requirements are for a biometric passport to conform to the International Civil Aviation Organisation recommendations; and what estimate he has made of *(a)* the lowest possible total cost of enabling the Passport Service to issue such passports and *(b)* the unit cost for each such passport issued, broken down by main component. [6784]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The minimum technical requirements to meet ICAO standards in addition to the requirements for security features and the presentation of personal data are as follows:

1. Use of a contact-less micro-processor chip. The chip must conform to the ISO 14443 standard.

2. The data within the chip to be arranged within an agreed file structure in accordance with the ICAO Specification on the Logical Data Structure.

3. The photo image to be stored in accordance with the emerging ISO Facial Standard 19794–5.

4. The chip embedded data to be protected by a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) developed in accordance with the ICAO PKI Specification.

The UK Passport Service have not finally concluded commercial negotiations with its security printers Security Printing and Systems Ltd. on the production of the biometric passport, and is not in a position to provide an estimate of the unit cost of the passport.

Police (Hertfordshire)

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on funding to facilitate the establishment of an anti-corruption policy for Hertfordshire constabulary. [5411]

Hazel Blears: The Government have put significant extra resources into the police service in England and Wales. Expenditure on policing to be supported by Government grant or spent centrally on services for the police has risen by over 39 per cent. or £3 billion between 2000–01 and 2005–06.

No specific provision is made available to tackle local corruption. The resources that each force allocates to tackle this problem is an operational matter for the chief constable. You may therefore wish to redirect your query to him.

Prevention of Terrorism Act

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been subject to the control orders introduced by the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005; and how many of those individuals were previously detained under existing powers relating to terrorism. [1389]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I refer the right hon. Member to my statement of 16 June when I made my first three monthly report to Parliament on the exercise of control order powers.

Proceeds of Crime Act

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value is of the funds so far recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 as a result of the actions of law enforcement agencies in Hampshire. [5637]

Hazel Blears: Information is not available in the form requested. The total value of cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained by Hampshire constabulary since implementation of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in March 2003 is £155,425. In addition, between 2003–04 and 2004–05 Hampshire constabulary obtained confiscation orders under earlier legislation with a total value of £476,816. Information on the value of orders obtained by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in Hampshire is not available.

Retinal Scans

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Department has to allow the use of retinal scans in the police national computer database. [4617]

Hazel Blears: At present there are no requirements to retain retinal scan data. If a case was made retention of such data would be on IDENT1 (the police service identification platform).

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 244W, on Sexual Offences Act 2003, what data will be collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the Act. [4766]

Paul Goggins: To evaluate the effectiveness of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, we will collect statistical data relating to recorded crime, prosecutions and convictions, as well as evidence from statutory and non-statutory bodies who work within the field of sexual offending.

Vehicle Checks

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many road-side vehicle checks were carried out by the Metropolitan Police in each year since 1997. [2513]

Paul Goggins: Information is not collected in the broad terms requested.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consultations he has on the appointment of a person to represent Northern Ireland on the Big Lottery Fund. [7095]

Mr. Hanson: The appointment of a person to represent Northern Ireland will be considered once the Big Lottery Fund has been legally established. There will be discussions with DCMS about the arrangements for making this appointment.

Bombardier C-Series Programme

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance is provided by his Department to Bombardier's C-Series programme. [7055]

Angela E. Smith: The UK Government have signed a Letter of Intent with Bombardier Inc. and Short Brothers plc agreeing in principle to provide a combination of Launch Investment and Selective Financial Assistance towards the development and production of wings, engine nacelles and composite

empennage structures for the Bombardier C-Series aircraft programme. The total package of up to £180 million comprises a £25 million repayable Launch Investment contribution and £30 million Selective Financial Assistance from Invest NI and £125 million repayable Launch Investment from DTI. This is subject to a programme launch decision by Bombardier.

Business Grants

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding has been allocated to *(a)* Business Start Up, *(b)* Promoting Entrepreneurs and *(c)* Enterprise Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [7662]

Angela E. Smith: The information is as follows.

(a) Invest NI has allocated the following funding to start-ups broken down by three market segments targeted by entrepreneurs, ie Global, Export, and Locally focused within Northern Ireland.

£

Market segment	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*Total*
Externally focused	3,724,721.00	4,073,934.00	2,915,158.00	10,713,813.00
Globally focused	0.00	0.00	2,169,167.00	2,169,167.00
Locally focused (Start A Business Programme)	2,211,735.00	2,610,307.00	3,068,017.00	7,890,059.00
Total	5,936,456.00	6,684,241.00	8,152,342.00	20,773,039.00

(b) Invest NI spend on the Entrepreneurship Development Team over the last three years is:

	£
2002–03	4,000,000
2003–04	4,600,000
2004–05	7,000,000
Total	15,600,000

In the same year Invest NI spend associated with the Accelerating Entrepreneurship Strategy/Go For It campaign is:

	£
2002–03	770,000
2003–04	2,450,000
2004–05	1,720,000
Total	4,940,000

However almost every aspect of Invest NI work involves entrepreneurial activity so the real figure for entrepreneurial activity is much higher.

(c) Invest NI has provided the following fees to Enterprise Northern Ireland for the delivery of the Start A Business programme:

	£
2002–03	1,438,658.19
2003–04	2,027,818.46
2004–05	2,755,184.79
Total	6,221,661.44

Child Poverty

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what research his Department has carried out into the levels of child poverty in North Belfast; and if he will make a statement. [5345]

Angela E. Smith: The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 Report was published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on 26 May 2005 (a copy is available in the Library). The report details levels of deprivation in 890 small areas (namely super output areas, or SOAs) covering Northern Ireland, with an average SOA population of just under 2,000 people. North Belfast constituency was one of the areas included in this report.

The following table lists the 40 super output areas that lie in the Belfast, North constituency, along with the Income Deprivation Affecting Children measure (IDAC) and their SOA ranking within Northern Ireland. The SOAs in Belfast, North range from New Lodge_1, the third most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland where 87 per cent. of children experience income deprivation, to Cavehill_2 (rank 839) where 4 per cent. of children experience income deprivation. Measured by the IDAC, 15 of the 40 SOAs in North Belfast are in the top 10per cent. of most deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland.

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is currently producing a ten-year strategy for children and young people. It will be firmly rooted in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and expressed in terms of five high level outcomes for children covering: health; education, learning and enjoyment; economic and environmental well-being; making a positive contribution to society and safety and stability.

It will be underpinned by the availability of quality research and information, support for parents, families and communities and the involvement of children and young people in decisions affecting their lives. A children's research database is being compiled which will focus on a wide range of issues including poverty levels experienced by children.

Government are currently consulting on an Anti-Poverty Strategy will also bring a focus to child poverty issues and the Northern Ireland Regional Action Plan, which will be the main vehicle for monitoring and reporting progress on tackling poverty and social exclusion issues across Northern Ireland Departments, will contribute to the UK Government's target of halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020. A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the Library.

Income deprivation affecting children—North Belfast[1]

SOA name	Income deprivation affecting children Score	Rank
New Lodge_1	0.87	3
New Lodge_3	0.83	6
Crumlin_2_Belfast	0.76	13
New Lodge_2	0.74	15
Water Works_1	0,74	17
Ardoyne_3	0,72	23
Ardoyne_2	0.69	26
Ardoyne_1	0,69	28
Duncairn_1	0,68	30
Crumlin_1_Belfast	0.67	35
Woodvale_3	0.67	37
Woodvale_2	0,64	44
Water Works_3	0.58	65
Ballysillan_1	0.55	84
Duncairn_2	0.55	86
Water Works_2	0.51	95
Woodvale_1	0.51	98
Cliftonville_1	0.50	99
Chichester Park_1	0,50	104
Legoniel_1	0.44	138
Bellevue_2	0.43	146
Castleview_1	0.41	161
Cliftonville_3	0.40	177
Legoniel_2	0.39	183
Bellevue_3	0.37	197
Ballysillan_2	0.35	209
Chichester Park_3	0,35	214
Castleview_3	0.33	242
Ballysillan_3	0,29	287
Fortwilliam_2	0,27	310
Chichester Park_2	0.26	326
Legoniel_3	0.21	432
Bellevue_1	0,20	443
Cliftonville_2	0,19	469
Fortwilliam_3	0.13	607
Fortwilliam_1	0.07	730
Cavehill_1	0,06	764
Castleview_2	0.06	772
Cavehill_3	0.06	781
Cavehill_2	0,04	839

[1] For every super output area in North Belfast parliamentary constituency where a rank of 1 is the most deprived SOA and a rank of 890 is the least deprived SOA in Northern Ireland.
One of the deprivation measures relates specifically to children; the Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) measure. This measures the percentage of a SOA's children under 16 who were living in households in receipt of income support or income based job seekers allowance or in families in receipt of working families tax credit/disabled persons tax credit whose equivalised income was below 60 per cent. of the UK median before housing costs.

Counterfeit Medicines

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what strategy is being pursued by the Chief Pharmacist in combating the counterfeiting of *(a)* medical and *(b)* veterinary pharmaceutical products in Northern Ireland [7137]

Mr. Woodward: The Department's Pharmaceutical Inspectorate, under the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, investigates all reports of manufacture and sale of illegal human and veterinary medicines including counterfeit products.

The Inspectorate conducts routine and ad-hoc "announced" and "unannounced" inspections of manufacturers and wholesale dealers of medicinal products to assess compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Good Distribution Practice (GDP). This work is undertaken on behalf of, and in liaison with, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). In addition, there is a regular programme of inspection of pharmacies and of registered agricultural merchants and saddlers for compliance with relevant legislation and current good practice.

The Department seeks to create public awareness through publicising criminal convictions and notable seizures of illegal and counterfeit products, which are considered to pose a significant threat to public health.

The Inspectorate undertakes regular training in counterfeit medicines detection methods and techniques in co-operation with the MHRA who also provide analytical services in relation to enforcement cases. There are also good collaborative links with international drug regulatory authorities and, more locally, the Inspectorate works closely with the Irish Medicines Board in relation to human medicines and with the Irish Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF) for veterinary medicines in the conduct of joint-investigations, exchange of experience and the sharing of intelligence.

Departmental Budget

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the reasons are for the differences between the figures for Northern Ireland Departmental Administration Costs Limits for 2005–06 published as Table 4 of his Priorities and Budget document 2005 to 2008 and the figures for departmental net administration costs for the same year published in the Northern Ireland Estimates 2005–06. [6984]

Angela E. Smith: The following table reconciles the figures within individual Departmental Estimates and the departmental totals within Table 4 of the Priorities and Budget document:

	£ million
Total departmental admin costs per estimates booklet	1,105.3
Less notional charges	−72.1
Pension changes	−23.4
Admin receipts	−99.1
AME costs	−7.5
Admin costs per Table 4, Priorities and Budget Document[1]	903.2

[1] Figure for departments only—excludes the £6.8 million miscellaneous adjustment

Explanations for the reconciling items are as follows:

1. Notional charges—The estimates include notional charges, which are "non-budget" items and thus do not appear in the Budget figurework.

2. Pension changes—In late December 2004, HM Treasury provided details of changes required to Northern Ireland budgets as a result of a change in methodology for determining employers' contribution rates for the Civil Service Pension Scheme and the Teacher's Pension Scheme. These changes were not available at the time of publication of the Priorities and Budget document, but have been included in the estimates document.

3. Admin receipts—The departmental administration figures in column 1 of the estimates are on a gross basis, with any associated receipts being included in the Accruing Resources figures in column 5. The administration cost limits in the Priorities and Budget are presented on a net basis after allowing for any associated administration receipts.

4. AME—The administrative element of Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) is included in the Estimates, but not included in Table 4 of the Priorities and Budget, which focuses on the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL).

Education Strike

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to avert strike action by teachers, classroom assistants and other education personnel in Northern Ireland. [5555]

Angela E. Smith: I met with schools, boards, political parties and the NI Committee of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions to discuss their concerns with regard to education funding in Northern Ireland. As a result of these meetings, strike action has been suspended by the Unions. I announced additional resources of £12.5 million for education of which £3.5 million will go to address pressures in special education, £2.5 million to improve the nutritional standards of school meals and £2.5 million to schools' maintenance. I have also made £4 million available to help the boards develop shared services and re-shape the schools' estate in line with falling pupil numbers. Savings in these areas will release valuable resources for front-line services in schools.

EU Funding (North Belfast)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what EU funds from *(a)* mainstream funds and *(b)* special programmes and initiatives have been allocated to North Belfast in each year since 1997. [4385]

Angela E. Smith: The amount of money from mainstream EU programmes and special programmes and initiatives allocated[1] to North Belfast since 1997 was as follows:

[1] The figures relate to projects with an address in the North Belfast parliamentary constituency. Where the project address is insufficient to allocate a postcode, organisation address details are used. If this is the case it is important to note that the impact of any project may extend beyond the geographical location of the project itself. In addition, a project may not be situated within the same geographical area as the applicant organisation.

£

	(a) Mainstream EU programmes[1]	*(b) Special programmes and initiatives*[2]
1997	12,435,782	7,516,653
1998	3,982,376	6,067,460
1999	3,203,191	11,812,038
2000	2,204,060	1,846,856
2001	1,013,339	1,936,814
2002	6,005,602	12,992,496
2003	1,705,678	21,978,660
2004	9,005,801	11,888,575
2005	—	405,624

[1] The EU programmes included in this category are the 1994–99 single programme document and the 2000–06 programme for building sustainable prosperity.

[2] The EU programmes included in this category are Peace I 1995–99, Peace II 2000–06 and the Community Initiatives Urban I, SMEs, Employment and Adapt for the period 1994–99 and Urban II, Equal and Interreg IIIA for the funding period 2000–06.

A list of projects and grants awarded under the current round of EU funding 2000–06 extracted from the EU structural funds database has been placed in the Library.

EU Peace Funds

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to ensure that communities from a Protestant and Unionist background receive a fair share of EU Peace funds. [7100]

Angela E. Smith: No shares of EU PEACE funds are set aside for either community. Recent research shows that both communities are deriving substantial benefit with Protestant share estimated at 48.6 per cent. and Catholic share estimated at 51.4 per cent. This research has also shown that Protestants are less likely to apply and every effort will be made to encourage applications from that community. Actions will include:

allocation of an additional £1 million per annum to the Weak Community Infrastructure measure in the PEACE II extension period;

Capacity Building Support for Protestant/Unionist Community Umbrella Groups;

programme publicity and information events throughout Northern Ireland;

specific reference through advertising and publicity events encouraging applications from the Protestant/Unionist community; and

all Implementing Bodies will be required to take action to try to address any instances where under representation of any group is identified.

Fuel Poverty

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of deaths attributable to fuel poverty in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [7635]

Mr. Hanson: There is no estimate available for the number of deaths attributable to fuel poverty. It is estimated that the average number of deaths, due to cardiovascular and respiratory causes, where low climatic temperature was a factor was approximately 2,050 per annum in the period 1980–2001. These deaths occurred in all seasons of the year and to people of all ages. They are not necessarily attributable to low home temperatures nor can they be attributed directly to fuel poverty. There has been a general decline in death from cardiovascular and respiratory causes, and it is estimated that a comparable figure for 2003–04 would be approximately 1,020.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5113]

Mr. Hain: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

House Fire Fatalities

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have died in house fires in Northern Ireland *(a)* in each month so far in 2005 and *(b)* in the last three years for which figures are available. [7161]

Mr. Woodward: Information provided by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service shows that in 2005 to date there have been three deaths in accidental dwellings fires in January and 1 in May. In the calendar years 2002, 2003 and 2004, total accidental dwelling fire fatalities were 12, 9 and 10, respectively.

Nitrates Directive (Slurry)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what financial assistance his Department will provide to farmers in Northern Ireland to build new slurry tanks following implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive. [7138]

Angela E. Smith: To assist farmers to comply with the Action Programme to implement the EU Nitrates Directive the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is providing capital grant support through the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme. Funding of £45 million is available to assist with investment in new and improved slurry and manure storage facilities.

Olympic Games

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the benefits to Northern Ireland so far of the 2012 Olympic bid. [7097]

Mr. Hanson: In the event of London 2012 winning the Olympic bid, it is expected that Northern Ireland could benefit through volunteering, hosting of pre-games training camps, increase in tourism, increased awareness of the benefits of participating in sport, economic and business procurement opportunities. It is also anticipated that competitors from Northern Ireland will compete in the games, which will bring added value in support to local elite athletes.

In Northern Ireland, a regional co-ordinating group has been established to raise awareness of the bid and to consider how to maximise benefits arising from a successful bid throughout the Province.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the benefits to Northern Ireland of the London bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. [7631]

Mr. Hanson: There is regular liaison with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in support of the London bid and the benefits for Northern Ireland. A regional co-ordinating group has been established in Northern Ireland to raise awareness of the bid and to consider how to maximise benefits arising from a successful bid.

Northern Ireland could anticipate benefits through volunteering, hosting of pre-games preparation camps, increase in tourism, increased awareness of the benefits of participating in sport, economic and business procurement opportunities.

Out of School Provision

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether funding for the expansion of out-of-school provision in Northern Ireland was included in the recent announcement by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. [7052]

Angela E. Smith: No, the announcement related to England.

My Department is, however, pursuing a number of developments, such as Education Action Zones, and provision within the Belfast Board area that will be supported through the Integrated Development Fund. These envisage schools as the learning hubs of their communities, supporting and encouraging provision throughout the extended school day; breakfast clubs, homework clubs, sports and a range of other activities are already offered in many schools before and after school hours.

Under the Peace II Programme extension 2004–06 out of school childcare provision and other activities can continue to be supported under Measure 1.5, Positive Action for Women.

Pensioners

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners there are in the Strangford constituency. [6680]

Mr. Hanson: In answering this question I have assumed the word "pensioners" relates to those people who are in receipt of retirement pension.

The number of people as of March 2005 in receipt of Retirement Pension in the Strangford constituency was 16,268.

Pharmaceutical Counterfeiting

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff are engaged within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in combating the counterfeiting of pharmaceutical products; and what plans he has to increase these numbers. [7147]

Mr. Woodward: There are currently four full-time members of staff which form the Pharmaceutical Inspectorate within the Pharmaceutical Branch, engaged in inspection and enforcement across the whole range of medicines (human and veterinary) and related pharmaceutical legislation, including action against those engaged in dealings in counterfeit products. One of these officers is exclusively dedicated to investigative work.

There will shortly be a meeting between the Department and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on the future operational arrangements following the introduction of new Veterinary Medicines Regulations which are due to come into force on 30 October 2005. The implications of this for staffing levels will be considered following the results of those discussions.

School Transport

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the criteria used to determine children's eligibility for free school transport. [7670]

Angela E. Smith: Free transport provision is available to pupils who have been unable to gain a place in suitable schools within specific distances of their home i.e. two miles for primary and three miles for secondary age pupils. While there are no plans to change this criterion the Department of Education is currently undertaking a review of the current arrangements.

Sinn Fein (Remuneration)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid in *(a)* salaries and *(b)* office allowances to Sinn Fein Assembly members since 29 April 2004; and if he will make a statement. [6151]

Mr. Hain: The total amount paid to Sinn Fein Assembly Members in respect of salaries from 29 April 2004 to 31 May 2005 was £823,239. For the same period, Sinn Fein Assembly members received Office Allowance Costs of £1,211,141.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the first direction given under section 51B(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 against Sinn Fein removing its entitlement to payments under the Financial Assistance for Political Parties Scheme for the 12 months from 29 April 2004. [6152]

Mr. Hain: The first Direction removed Sinn Fein's entitlement to financial assistance for 12 months from 29 April 2004. The assistance Sinn Fein might otherwise have received is approximately £120,000.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons he declined to exercise his powers under section 47 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to make a determination in relation to the salaries of Sinn Fein Assembly members following the 1st Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission in April 2004. [6153]

Mr. Hain: The Direction made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen in April 2004 concerned party funding. In his statement to the House of Commons on 20 April 2004 he said that having considered the Independent Monitoring Commission's Report, he was persuaded that it would be right to remove for a period the entitlement to the block financial assistance paid to Assembly parties.

He said that the powers he had taken to enable him to make a Direction in the absence of a sitting Assembly would also permit him to act to reduce Members' salaries if he saw fit to do so in the light of a future IMC report. My right hon. Friend had therefore concluded that action against party funding was the appropriate response to the report.

Smoke Alarms

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of homes in Northern Ireland which are not fitted with a working smoke alarm; and what steps are being taken to increase the numbers of homes with working smoke alarms. [7539]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) has based its estimates of working smoke alarms on the findings of the June 2004 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey (NIOS). This found that 96 per cent. of respondents had a smoke alarm in their home. Of these, 72 per cent. reported checking their alarms as least weekly or monthly. Taking into account the likelihood of those who tested their alarms less frequently, or never tested, having working alarms, NIFRS estimates that 19 per cent. of homes may not have a reliable, working smoke alarm.

NIFRS has undertaken a number of initiatives to increase public awareness of the need to maintain smoke alarms. These have included the "Touch for Life" television advert, shown every Monday throughout the year, which promotes smoke detector maintenance. Billboard and Adshel posters accompanied the television and radio campaign. NIFRS has also circulated a multi-lingual fire safety leaflet targeting minority ethnic groups. NIFRS has also conducted 3,527 community development initiatives in the past year, including fire safety talks in schools, highlighting the importance of smoke alarm maintenance, and 1,421 home safety visits giving advice on fire safety arrangements, as well as the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have *(a)* died and *(b)* suffered injury as a result of house fires where there was a non-working smoke alarm in each of the last five years. [7540]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the numbers of deaths in the last five years in house fires where no working smoke alarm was fitted:

	Total fatalities in house fires	*Fatalities where no working smoke alarm fitted*
2000	14	11
2001	14	8
2002	12	5
2003	9	1
2004	10	5

Figures for the numbers of serious injuries are not readily available. I will write to the hon. Gentleman when these are to hand.

Strangford Lough Fishing Ban

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been awarded compensation by his Department since the ban on fishing with mobile gear in Strangford Lough came into force; and what has been the total cost of this compensation. [7140]

Angela E. Smith: No compensation has yet been awarded.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria were used by his Department when awarding compensation following the ban on fishing with mobile gear in Strangford Lough. [7141]

Angela E. Smith: No compensation has yet been awarded and therefore no assessment criteria have been applied.

Tennis

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of the recently-announced lottery funding for sport in Northern Ireland has been earmarked specifically to develop tennis. [7165]

Mr. Hanson: The recent announcement of £6.4 million lottery funding was for projects under the Big Lottery Fund's PE and Sport programme. The PE and Sport programme does not make awards to specific sports, as it is primarily for capital investment. However five of the 14 projects that have recently received awards totalling £4.5 million have indicated in their sports development plan that they will offer sports development opportunities in tennis.

Trading Standards

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Trading Standards offences were recorded in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years; and how many people were prosecuted as a result. [7167]

Angela E. Smith: The following table gives the numbers of recorded Trading Standards offences and prosecutions from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2005.

Year (1 April-31 March)	*Number of Trading Standards offences recorded*[1]	*Number of Trading Standards prosecutions*
2000–01	812	14
2001–02	1265	20
2002–03	1279	14
2003–04	1493	14
2004–05	308	15

[1] Recorded offences include many instances of non-compliance where remedial action was taken on the spot by the trader.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Trading Standards officers were employed in Northern Ireland in each of the past five years, broken down by rank. [7166]

Angela E. Smith: The following table gives details of the staffing of Trading Standards Officers in the last five years.

Trading Standards Officers by rank in past five years

Grades	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Chief Trading Standards Officer	1	2	2	2	2	2
Senior Inspector	1	1	1	1	0	0
Area Inspector	7	7	7	7	7	7
Trading Standards Inspector	12	12	12	11	10	10
Enforcement Officer	10	10	11	11	12	14
Trainee Inspector	0	0	6	6	6	6
Total	32	33	40	39	38	40

Velcade

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to make Velcade available on the NHS in Northern Ireland; and for what reasons it has not been available to date. [7169]

Mr. Woodward: Velcade was licensed for use in all areas in the UK in April 2004. Clinicians are in a position to prescribe Velcade within its licensed indications and in the context of local prescribing budgets.

Additional funding of £5 million has been allocated in 2005–06 for specialist hospital drugs. It is for the Health and Social Services Boards, as commissioners of services, to prioritise how funding is used, taking into account the competing demands and pressures in their areas and the strategic objectives and priorities of my Department.

The Department will continue to seek to improve access to specialist medicines, which offer the potential for significant improvement in patient care.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Civil Legal Aid Budget

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what allocations she has made to the civil legal aid budget for each of the next five years. [7957]

Bridget Prentice: There is no set budget for civil legal aid for the next five years. Civil legal aid forms part of the overall total funding available for all legal aid (excluding asylum which is part of the Single Asylum Fund). The resource budget for legal aid is set for three years at each Spending Review and these stand at £1,825 million, £1,872 million and £1,920 million for 2005–06 to 2007–08 respectively.

Prior to the commencement of each financial year the Lord Chancellor is required to direct how much may be paid into the Community Legal Service Fund (which funds civil legal aid). As priorities change throughout the course of the year this amount may be changed by way of an amending direction.

Coroners (Bridgend/Teesside)

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will instruct the Bridgend coroner, Mr. Walters, to provide doctors at the Oaktree Surgery in Bridgend with copies of post mortems carried out on their patients. [6918]

Ms Harman: Coroners have been encouraged to provide doctors with copies of post mortem reports in relation to their patients but the decision is a matter for the coroner alone and not one where the Secretary of State can direct.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the contents are of the monthly reports which the Lord Chancellor has been receiving from the coroner of Teesside. [7692]

Ms Harman: The monthly information reports received by the Lord Chancellor from the coroner for Teesside since June 2004 contain the number of coroner cases (including inquests) in the region and specifically the numbers of cases received, disposed of and outstanding on a monthly basis.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what basis the Lord Chancellor will decide whether he requires the Teesside coroner to continue to send him monthly reports. [7693]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor will decide whether he requires the coroner for Teesside to continue to send him monthly reports based upon the performance of the coroner's office for Teesside during the review period.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if the Lord Chancellor will require the Teesside coroner to undergo extra training to ensure that there is no recurrence of delays. [7698]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor has not required the coroner to undergo extra training as part of the review period. The Lord Chancellor will consider what further action, if any, is required after the end of June 2005.

Immigration and Asylum

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what studies her Department has undertaken into the effect of the new legal aid control on the immigration and asylum system. [6978]

Bridget Prentice: The reforms introduced in April 2004 addressed serious concerns about increasing costs and poor quality work. They were designed to target resources on cases with merit and to drive up the quality of publicly funded legal services in the field of asylum and immigration. Now that the reforms have been in place for a year, there is sufficient information available to commence an analysis of their impact and DCA officials will be working with the Legal Services Commission (LSC), Home Office and the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal on this. The operation of the new cost controls was subject to a review involving key stakeholders from the legal professions in July 2004.

In most areas of the country there are an adequate number of suppliers and the LSC acts to ensure that any local gaps in supply are addressed as quickly as possible. The LSC is undertaking a needs analysis exercise to further match supply to demand. Since the changes were introduced, the number of firms and organisations undertaking this work has fallen, but during 2004–05 the net reduction was less than 10 per cent. This is in the context of a significant fall in asylum numbers from a peak of 84,000 to 32,000 in 2004–05.

Jury Service (Northern Ireland)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people were called to jury service in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and what the average length of time served as a juror was in Northern Ireland in each of these years. [7168]

Bridget Prentice: The number of people called to jury service in Northern Ireland is:

	Number
2003–04	17,405
2004–05	18,345

Statistics for 2002–03 and information on the average length of time served as a juror are recorded manually and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Law Society

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she has been consulted about the Law Society's Training Framework Review. [7521]

Bridget Prentice: The Law Society is currently consulting on proposed changes to the pre-qualification training framework for solicitors. Any recommendations the Law Society makes as a result of that consultation will then be considered by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, whose approval would be needed, in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

Magistrates

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make it her policy to collect data on magistrates residency by constituency in order to identify areas where extra recruitment is required. [7386]

Ms Harman: There are no plans to collect data on magistrates residency by constituency. The Lord Chancellor's and Secretary of State's Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace are responsible for the recruitment of magistrates. There are 101 Advisory Committees covering England and Wales. Data on the number of magistrates are recorded for each bench and Advisory Committees are responsible for recruiting sufficient magistrates for each bench. The Magistrates' National Recruitment Strategy Implementation Paper published on 11 March 2005 sets the action for increasing recruitment.

Solicitors (Newly Qualified/Trainee)

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average salary has

been of a one-year qualified solicitor *(a)* conducting civil legal aid work and *(b)* in non-publicly funded firms, in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region; [7955]

Bridget Prentice: The specific information requested is not collated or held centrally by this Department and therefore an answer cannot be given. The issue of salaries paid to solicitors is a matter for solicitors' partnerships/practices and the individual solicitors concerned.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average salary has been of a trainee solicitor *(a)* conducting civil legal aid work and *(b)* in non-publicly funded firms, in each of the last 10 years broken down by region. [7956]

Bridget Prentice: The specific information requested is not collated or held centrally by this Department and therefore an answer cannot be given. The issue of salaries paid to solicitors is a matter for solicitors' partnerships/practices and the individual solicitors concerned.

Tolerance Work Contracts

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she has taken to review legal aid advice under contracts for tolerance work. [7954]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission plan to review tolerance work contracts later in the year as part of a major consultation on their supplier management strategy.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consultants

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7032]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has comprehensive guidance on commissioning consultants contained within its procurement guidelines. This guidance is accessible to all staff via the FCO's own internal intranet.

European Armaments, Research and Military Capabilities Agency

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role is of the European Armaments, Research and Military Capabilities Agency; when it was established; how it is financed; what the UK contribution was in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [2879]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

The European Defence Agency was formally established under that title on 12 July 2004 by a unanimous decision by Heads of State and Government. It was established under the Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP according to the provisions of the treaty on European Union.

The Agency's mission is "to support member states in their effort to improve the European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the ESDP as it stands and develops in the future". To fulfil this role, the Agency has been assigned four functions: the development of defence capabilities in the field of crisis management; the promotion and enhancement of European armaments co-operation; working to strengthen the defence technological and industrial base and for the creation of an internationally competitive European defence equipment market; and the enhancement of the effectiveness of European defence research and technology.

The Agency is financed by contributions from participating member states, whose share is based on assessments of gross national income. The UK contributed 17.28 percent. (equating to €308,775.51) of the budget for 2004, which covered the period from its formal establishment in July to the end of that year. For the calendar year 2005, the UK contribution is 18.07 percent., equating to €3,596,803. The 2005 budget includes non-recurring costs associated with the initial set-up of the Agency.

The Government are a strong supporter of the European Defence Agency. The Agency will drive forward work on improving European defence capabilities by encouraging and supporting the efforts of individual EU member states. By developing proposals to rationalise and harmonise capability requirements, and linking those directly to industrial and research efforts, the Agency will significantly strengthen both the European security and defence policy and Europe's contribution to NATO.

India

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of India regarding Sikh separatism in the Punjab. [7366]

Dr. Howells: The Government have not raised the issue of Sikh separatism in the Punjab with the Government of India. We continue regularly to raise the issue of religious minorities, at official level, with the Indian authorities.

Iran

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Bahá'í community in Iran. [7527]

Dr. Howells: The Bahá'ís are the largest non-Muslim religious group in Iran yet, unlike Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians, are not recognised in Iran's constitution. Members of the Bahá'í community have suffered intimidation and harassment, had property confiscated and been denied access to education and employment, apparently on account of their faith. A number of Bahá'í sites have been demolished, organisers of Bahá'í community activities have reportedly been harassed and the Bahá'í faith has been denigrated in the state-owned media. Many of these acts appear to have been carried

out by, or with the support or acquiescence of, the Iranian authorities. We have raised our concerns about the situation of the Bahá'ís in Iran with the Iranian authorities on many occasions, and will continue to do so, bilaterally and with our European Union partners.

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the EU3 has made on *(a)* nuclear co-operation, *(b)* technological and economic co-operation and *(c)* security issues during negotiations with the Iranian Government. [7636]

Dr. Howells: In an agreement reached with Iran in Paris in November 2004, the UK, France and Germany (the "E3"), supported by the EU High Representative, proposed a framework for negotiating long-term arrangements for Iran's nuclear programme and co-operation in other areas. Iran agreed to suspend fully all uranium enrichment related and reprocessing activities while the discussions continue; the agreement makes clear that this is essential to the continuation of the process. The discussions have been taken forward by a Steering Committee and three Working Groups covering nuclear issues, political/security issues, and technology/co-operation. Both sides have put forward ideas. Following a ministerial meeting in Geneva on 25 May, the E3 have now agreed to present further ideas in late July or early August. These are still under internal discussion.

Iraq/Afghanistan (Human Rights)

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the 2005 Annual Human Rights report will *(a)* set out the steps which the UK have taken to ensure that human rights are respected by military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan and *(b)* include a discussion of human rights violations alleged to have been committed by the UK. [7922]

Ian Pearson: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Report on Human Rights 2005 is currently being edited and is due for publication as a Command Paper next month. It contains sections on Iraq and Afghanistan, including human rights, security forces and allegations of abuse.

Kashmir

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards an improvement in the human rights situation in Kashmir. [6967]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned by continued credible reports of human rights abuses in Kashmir, including acts reportedly perpetrated by members of the Indian security forces. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this with the Indian Minister of Home Affairs during his visit to India in February 2005. The UK condemns all acts of violence that bring suffering to the people of Kashmir, and believes that only through dialogue between India and Pakistan will a durable solution to the Kashmir issue be reached. We welcome the Indian Chief of Army Staffs public commitment to "reach out to the Kashmiri People", and the UK will continue to encourage the Indian Government to implement such pledges to improve the human rights situation in Kashmir.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in reducing external support for militants in Kashmir. [6992]

Dr. Howells: It is important that Pakistan does all it can to fulfil President Musharraf's commitment, made at the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Summit in Islamabad in January 2004, not to permit any Pakistani territory to be used to support terrorism. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the need for Pakistan to fulfil this commitment during his visit to Islamabad in February 2005, and the UK continues to make this point clearly to senior Pakistani interlocutors.

Middle East

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's policy towards Israel's plans to build a Gaza sea barrier. [7361]

Dr. Howells: We are seeking clarification from the Government of Israel on its reported plans to build a sea barrier. We fully support Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism, which the UK condemns absolutely. But we would expect the construction of any such sea barrier to comply with international law.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether Israel is fulfilling human rights commitments made to the EU. [7374]

Dr. Howells: Along with our EU partners, we have followed a policy of constructive engagement with Israel on humanitarian and human rights issues. We have raised our concerns on human rights violations both bilaterally and through the institutions established by the EU/Israel Association Agreement. This happened most recently at the EU/Israel Association Committee on 14 April in Jerusalem. Our primary concerns are the impact on human rights of barrier construction, restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement and settlement expansion. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised these issues with the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, during his visit to Israel and the Occupied Territories on 7–8 June.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on the timetable for Israeli withdrawals from Gaza. [7384]

Dr. Howells: We have had ongoing discussions with the Israeli Government on the timetable for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and part of the West Bank. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed this with Israeli Prime Minister Sharon, Vice Prime Minister Olmert and Foreign Minister Shalom during his visit to the region on 7–8 June.

Saddam Hussein

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what effects the

(a) possibility of Saddam Hussein receiving a capital sentence and *(b)* implications of the European Convention on Human Rights have had on the provision of information by the UK Government into the investigations into Saddam Hussein's alleged crimes. [7846]

Dr. Howells: The British Government have not provided any information into the investigations into Saddam Hussein's alleged crimes.

Our opposition to the death penalty is well known.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 650 on Saddam Hussein, whether the Government plans *(a)* to make all relevant evidence available to and *(b)* co-operate in all ways with the investigation into and the trial of Saddam Hussein. [7949]

Dr. Howells: The Government supports the efforts of the Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST) to bring members of the former regime to justice and has provided training for the judiciary. Should the Government be approached by the IST with a request for cooperation in support of investigations or trials, we would of course give that request full consideration. Thus far, we have received no such request.

Saudi Arabia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding democratic reform. [7363]

Dr. Howells: We support the emerging momentum for change and modernisation that is developing in Saudi Arabia. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary jointly hosted with HRH Prince Saud, the Saudi Foreign Minister, a conference in London on 23 February to consider Saudi reform issues. The Foreign Secretary had a further meeting with HRH Prince Saud on 22 June at which they again discussed reform. We have established, with Saudi Arabia, a follow-up process to the conference to develop practical steps we can take together to support Saudi Arabia's reform efforts.

Student Visas

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues about the effect of increases in visa charges on numbers of applications from overseas students to universities in the United Kingdom. [7268]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary was involved in correspondence discussions on the matter of the increase in visa fees for overseas students with my right hon. Friends the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. In addition, he has discussed this issue with the previous and current Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (respectively Mr. Mullin and Lord Triesman of Tottenham).

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Justice and Equality Movement of Darfur (JEM); and whether the JEM has recently visited the UK. [7847]

Ian Pearson: Through the Sudan Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and our Embassy in Khartoum, we are in regular contact with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The then UK Special Representative met Dr Khalil, the leader of the JEM in London on 19 April. During this meeting we urged them to abide by their commitments under the Abuja protocols, to prevent attacks and to negotiate a political settlement.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) met representatives of the JEM during his visit to Darfur on 13 June. He pressed them to respect their commitment to the ceasefire, noting that responsibility for the majority of ceasefire violations in recent weeks have been laid at the rebels' door. He urged them to negotiate constructively in Abuja.

To this end we welcome the resumption of peace talks in Abuja. A UK observer at the talks is in contact with the JEM on a daily basis. We continue to press them to negotiate in good faith and find a solution to the conflict in Darfur.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Business Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average business rate in London has been in each year since 1997. [7399]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 542W.

Council Tax

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to limit regional variations in council tax. [7301]

Mr. Woolas: Council tax levels are primarily for local authorities to determine, although the Government have made it clear that they will not hesitate to use their capping powers to protect council tax payers from excessive increases.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average *(a)* Band D and *(b)* per dwelling council tax bill has been in (i) London and (ii) each London borough in each year since 1997–98. [7398]

Mr. Woolas: Details of the average *(a)* Band D and *(b)* per dwelling council tax bill in (i) London and (ii) each London borough in each year since 1998–99 are published on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website and can be found under the heading "Information For Taxpayers—Council Taxes" at: http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ct.htm.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the Government's plan for *(a)* council tax on and *(b)* planning permission for second homes. [7402]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows.

(a) From the financial year 2004–05, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has given local billing authorities the discretion to set the council tax discount offered on second homes at any point between 10 per cent. and 50 per cent. No further changes are planned.

(b) I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron) on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 127W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated gross revenue generated in England by reducing the council tax discount on *(a)* second homes and *(b)* empty homes was in the last year for which figures are available. [7404]

Mr. Woolas: It is estimated that the additional amounts of council tax generated in 2004–05 as a result of billing authorities reducing council tax discounts for properties in their area were £88 million for second homes and £49 million for long-term empty homes.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the definition is of a second home for the purposes of setting council tax bills. [7405]

Mr. Woolas: For the purpose of setting council tax bills, a second home is a chargeable furnished dwelling which is no one's sole or main residence.

E-projects (Funding)

Robert Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the projects for e-enabling parish councils and local community groups that his Department is funding; what the *(a)* central funding and *(b)* partnership contribution is for each project; and if he will make a statement. [6557]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Local e-Government programme does not directly support the e-enablement of parish councils and local community groups. However, through a number of projects we have funded, local authorities have been given the tools to support their local groups. Local authorities are encouraged to do so through the Local e-Gov Priority Outcomes guidance as part of their community leadership role.

The five projects we funded are:

	Name of project	*Area of interest*	*ODPM stream of funding (£)*	*Partnership contribution (£)*
2005–06	Local Directgov—workstream 2	Neighbourhoods and parish councils	350,000	n/a
2005–06	East of England Regional Partnership	E-enabling Parish Councils	300,000	n/a
2004–05	ENCORE—workstream 4	E-Community Services	531,200	n/a
2004–05	The Local Link	Online services to build web pages for first tier councils	170,000	170,000
2004–05	Community Heritage Stores	Community Heritage Store	68,000	68,000

EU Funding (West Midlands)

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much EU funding has been secured for projects in the west midlands since 1997, broken down by *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority. [7717]

Yvette Cooper: The west midlands region has secured over £1.2 billion of funding from the European Union since 1997, via a package of structural funds programmes, namely

£

Programme	*ERDF*	*ESF*	*EAGGF*	*Total*
Objective 2 (1997–99)	226.10 million	77.49 million	—	303.59 million
Urban (1997–99)	1.95 million	0.88 million	—	2.83 million
Leader II (1997–99)	1.0 million	0.25 million	0.25 million	1.50 million
Objective 2 (2000–06)	515.26 million	100.00 million	—	615.26 million
Objective 3 (2000–06)	—	318.09 million	—	318.09 million
Leader + (2000–06)	—	—	1.13 million	1.13 million
Grand total	—	—	—	1.2424 billion

These sums are in addition to the £335 million of EU funding allocated to the region under the earlier programmes (1994–95), part of which was still available to spend up to 2001.

European funding is allocated on a national/regional basis for projects operating in eligible programme areas which are agreed with the Commission at the start of the programming period. EU funds are not allocated on a sub-regional basis in the west midlands region, so the above allocations cannot be broken down to a parliamentary constituency or local authority level.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much *(a)* objective 2, *(b)* objective 3 and *(c)* other EU funding has been secured in the West Midlands in 2005–06, broken down by (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) local authority area. [7718]

Yvette Cooper: European Structural Funds programmes operate on the basis of calendar years. Between 1 January and 31 December 2005, the West Midlands has been allocated a total of £110.4 million in European funding, broken down as follows:

£ million

Programme	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	Total
Objective 2	60.92	14.50	—	75. 42
Objective 3	—	34.70	—	34.70
Leader +	—	—	0.28	0.28
Grand total	—	—	—	110.40

EU funds are not allocated on a sub-regional basis in the West Midlands, so the above allocations cannot be broken down to a parliamentary constituency or local authority area.

Home Ownership

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his written statement of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 17WS, on home ownership, how many people in each region he expects to be eligible for the shared home ownership schemes. [6485]

Yvette Cooper: It is not possible to estimate at the moment how many people in each region will be eligible for our new HomeBuy shared equity proposals as set out in our consultation document "HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own".

We want to ensure that our support is directed at people most in need of assistance. Our consultation document proposes that social tenants and those on housing registers, key workers and other first time buyers identified by Regional Housing Boards should be eligible for assistance. Final eligibility criteria will therefore be dependent on the recommendations of Regional Housing Boards.

The consultation closes on 24 June and we intend to put the new arrangements in place by April 2006.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the written statement of 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 17WS, on home ownership, how many of the shared home ownership schemes he expects to be in place by April 2009; and how many people he expects to have participated in them. [6486]

Yvette Cooper: "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All", a copy of which can be found in the Library of the House, indicated that over 80,000 households will be helped into home-ownership through low cost home ownership schemes by 2010. This total could increase to as many as 110,000 through a deal being negotiated with the Council of Mortgage Lenders that would involve the Government funding equity loans jointly with private lenders.

However, it is too early to say how many people will have participated in shared ownership schemes between now and April 2009. Decisions on the overall level of funding for affordable housing in each region in 2006–07 and 2007–08 will be taken over the summer in the light of advice from the Regional Housing Boards. The allocation of these funds across the regions, which will be announced early next year, will reflect advice from the boards and the quantity and value for money of bids to the Housing Corporation. The delivery of outputs from 2008–09 will be dependent upon the outcome of the next Spending Review in 2006.

House Prices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 878W, on house prices, what the average house price for England was in *(a)* 1993 and *(b)* 2004. [7546]

Yvette Cooper: Mix-adjusted house prices for the UK, constituent countries and the Government Office regions from 1993 are published as Live Table 507 on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_housing/documents/page/odpm_house_604092.xls

House Sales (Islamic Financing)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many homes have been sold in each year since 1997 under *(a)* shared ownership and *(b)* right-to-buy schemes using the principles of Islamic financing; [6408]

(2) what provision has been made by his Department to enable the purchase of homes under *(a)* shared ownership and *(b)* right-to-buy schemes that are compliant with Islamic financing principles. [6409]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is exploring options with the Housing Corporation and other regulators to ascertain whether it is possible for shared equity products to comply with Islamic law. The issues are complex and we want a solution which protects both the rights of individuals and provides security for Government funds.

In March 2005, the ODPM published a consultation paper, "Non-standard mortgages for purchasing social dwellings", on its proposal to issue a General Consent under section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 to facilitate the use of finance that complies with Sharia principles by secure tenants of local authorities who wish to buy their homes. The paper is available on the ODPM website, at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_housing/documents/page/odpm_house_035962.hcsp

The closing date for responses was 20 June 2005. We will consider the responses received before taking any action.

Housing Initiatives

Dr. Cable: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the proportion of *(a)* shared owners and *(b)* Homebuy purchasers who expect to own their own home outright eventually. [6451]

Yvette Cooper: On 6 June the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published a supporting annex to our consultation document "HomeBuy—expanding the opportunity to own" (April 2005). This summarised key research into our existing shared ownership and Homebuy schemes. Research included the "Evaluation of the Low Cost Home Ownership Programme (ODPM 2002)" which found that over 80 per cent. of shared owners and 53 per cent. of Homebuy purchasers expected to own their current home outright eventually.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the potential costs to *(a)* public funds and *(b)* mortgage lenders of properties

purchased under the Homebuy Joint Shared Equity Loan with Mortgage Lenders scheme being sold at below the original purchase price. [6454]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently consulting on the details of our proposals for a range of new HomeBuy products, as set out in the consultation document "HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own" (a copy of which is available from the Library of the House). This includes proposals for the joint public/private funding of equity loans.

Under these proposals a proportion of the equity loan assistance currently offered by the Government under the HomeBuy scheme will be replaced with funding from a private mortgage lender. For example, if a buyer purchases 75 per cent. of a home through their own means the Government will fund 12.5 per cent. and the private lender the remaining 12.5 per cent.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise the Open Market HomeBuy scheme will be modified in this way. This will enable the Government's funding allocated to the scheme to go further and help more people into home ownership. It is not our intention that there will be any overall increase in costs to public funds as a result of these proposals.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has made no assessment of the potential costs to lenders of operating this scheme; that is a primarily a matter for lenders themselves.

Key Workers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what definition of key worker his Department uses. [6417]

Yvette Cooper: For the purposes of the Key Worker Living (KWL) programme, a key worker is someone employed by the public sector in health, education or community safety delivering an essential public service in a role where there are serious recruitment and retention problems. Within this broad definition sponsor Government Departments and Police and Fire Authorities specify the groups at which help should be targeted based on recruitment and retention issues in critical frontline services. The sector specific eligibility criteria can be found in Annex B of the KWL Capital Funding Guide on the Housing Corporation's website at http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/resources/cfg.htm

Local Authorities (Performance)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what extra powers the Government will offer local authorities rated *(a)* excellent and *(b)* good in the revised Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime. [7444]

Mr. Woolas: Under the current Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime excellent and good authorities benefit from a number of additional freedoms, including new powers to trade and streamlined requirements for best value performance plans. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently consulting on provisions allowing good and excellent authorities to spend income from fixed penalty notices from dog fouling and litter on any service. Excellent authorities benefit from further freedoms from statutory plan requirements, significant reductions in levels of inspection and reduced ring fencing. These freedoms will remain under the revised CPA system and we will be considering what further freedoms can be provided before the first scores under the revised system are published at the end of the year.

Local Authority Budgets

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable is for capping local authority budgets. [7447]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently considering the challenges made by the nine authorities which were designated on 23 March.

In year capping is subject to a capping Order being approved by the House of Commons. If any such Order is approved, it is intended that it should come into effect before the summer recess.

Mobile Phone Masts

Mr. Mates: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons the Government did not proceed with its undertaking to make all telephones masts the subject of normal planning procedures. [7951]

Yvette Cooper: In 2000 the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (Stewart Group) recommended that telecommunication development should be subject to the normal planning process. The Group made this recommendation in order to improve local consultation. The arrangements we put in place following the Group's report provide for the same consultation on mobile phone masts up to 15 m in height as is required by full planning permission.

Mr. Mates: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of planning appeals for mobile phone masts were decided *(a)* for and *(b)* against the appellant in the most recent year for which figures are available. [7952]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister do not hold information about mobile phone masts specifically, and it could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Mates: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when research into mobile phone use and the necessity for masts in the future, announced on 4 April, is expected to be completed. [7991]

Yvette Cooper: The 4 April announcement stated the Government's intention to commission further research to identify the future direction of mobile phone technology and the future need for mast developments. We will announce further details of the research in due course.

Property Values

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* year and *(b)* month's house prices were used to assess property values in the original valuation of properties for council tax in England. [7407]

Mr. Woolas: Domestic properties were assessed for council tax based on the value that would have been realised if they were sold on 1 April 1991.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the timetable was for the original valuation of residential properties for council tax in England. [7408]

Mr. Woolas: Following the Local Government and Finance Act 1991 the Valuation Office had to deliver draft valuation lists to local (charging) authorities by 1 December 1992 and compiled lists by 1 April 1993.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the methodology used for the original valuation of properties for council tax in England. [7409]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the methodology used in valuing domestic properties for council tax purposes has been placed in the Library of the House. This is contained in the National Audit report, published in March 1994, entitled "Council Tax Valuations in England and Wales".

Additional information can be obtained from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) website at www.voa.gov.uk and selecting council tax at the top of the home page and from the next page "How your property is valued".

Public Conveniences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 879W, on public conveniences, in what year public conveniences first became liable for business rates; and what the average rate on a public convenience was in the last year for which figures are available. [7494]

Mr. Woolas: Public conveniences have been liable for business rates at least as far back as 1950. This is when the responsibility for compiling and maintaining valuation lists transferred to valuation officers, at that time officials of the Inland Revenue. Information on the average rate bills for public conveniences is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Rates (Collection)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the collection rate for *(a)* business rates and *(b)* council tax has been in each local authority in each year since 1996–97. [7446]

Mr. Woolas: Details of the collection rate for *(a)* non-domestic rates and *(b)* council tax in each local authority in each year since 1997–98 are published on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website and can be found under the heading "Information For Taxpayers—Council Tax Collection Rates" at: http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ct.htm

Second Home Discount

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much revenue was accrued through the change in the second home discount in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by local authority; and how much of that money was ringfenced for housing purposes. [6814]

Mr. Woolas: A table giving estimates of the amounts of additional council tax generated for 2004–05 for each billing authority area as a result of reductions in the discount for second homes has been placed in the Library of the House.

None of the additional money generated was ring-fenced for housing purposes. Local authorities are free to use the additional revenue generated for whatever purposes they feel most appropriate. Some may use it to keep down their increase in council tax for other council taxpayers. In other areas, local authorities have indicated their intention to apply the proceeds to specific purposes, such as the provision of more affordable housing.

South East England Regional Spatial Strategy

Anne Milton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister to what timetable he expects the South East England Regional Spatial Strategy to be completed. [3367]

Yvette Cooper: The South East England Regional Assembly has written to Ministers requesting an extension to the timetable of the South East Plan. The proposal is currently being considered.

Standards Board

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will require the Standards Board to record the amount of staff time spent on each investigation; and if he will make a statement; [7056]

(2) if he will require the Standards Board to record the post held by a local government officer making a complaint against a councillor; and if he will make a statement; [7057]

(3) if he will require the Standards Board to record the political affiliation of *(a)* a complainant councillor and *(b)* a respondent councillor, in respect of complaints; and if he will make a statement; [7058]

(4) if he will require the Standards Board to record the outcome of cases referred to it, by category of complainant; and if he will make a statement. [7059]

Mr. Woolas: The Standards Board for England has recently introduced a system to record the amount of staff time spent on individual cases. The board records the numbers of allegations made by monitoring officers, but does not distinguish between the numbers submitted by other local authority officers. We have no plans to require the board to undertake any further monitoring of the kind referred to.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of claimant off-flows from jobseeker's allowance were due to the

claimant claiming incapacity benefit for each of the last 10 years in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England and Wales and *(c)* Birkenhead. [7993]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available prior to 1998; the available information is in the table.

Jobseekers allowance (JSA) off-flows due to the claimant claiming incapacity benefit (IB), May 1998 to May 2005: United Kingdom, England, Wales and Birkenhead parliamentary constituency

	United Kingdom		England	
	JSA off-flow to IB	Percentage of total JSA off-flow	JSA off-flow to IB	Percentage of total JSA off-flow
May 1998	12,235	4.2	9,375	4.0
May 1999	15,410	4.8	11,580	4.5
May 2000	9,805	4.1	7,305	3.9
May 2001	9,345	4.4	6,970	4.2
May 2002	9,615	4.2	7,220	4.0
May 2003	7,870	4.0	5,975	3.8
May 2004	9,465	3.8	7,240	3.6
May 2005	7,560	4.0	5,725	3.7

	Wales		Birkenhead parliamentary constituency	
	JSA off-flow to IB	Percentage of total JSA off-flow	JSA off-flow to IB	Percentage of total JSA off-flow
May 1998	870	5.4	30	4.6
May 1999	1,070	5.8	45	5.7
May 2000	675	5.0	25	4.1
May 2001	655	5.3	30	5.7
May 2002	625	5.1	35	6.0
May 2003	530	5.0	15	3.3
May 2004	600	4.5	25	4.4
May 2005	525	5.2	20	3.8

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Percentages have been given to 1 decimal place.
3. Figures do not include a small number of clerical cases.
4. There a small number of claimants who flow off JSA with an unknown destination recorded—it is possible that some of these claimants may have also flowed from JSA to IB. Therefore the above figures may be a slight undercount.

Source:

Count of unemployment-related benefits, jobcentre plus computer systems.

Local Housing Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of levels of fraud and error in connection with payment of housing benefit within the local housing allowance pilot areas. [922]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available as requested as data is not available below national level. Our latest estimates of fraud and error in housing benefit are published in "Fraud and Error in Housing Benefit April 2002 to March 2004", which is available in the Library.

We are continuing to evaluate the local housing allowance within the pathfinder areas. Qualitative data will be gathered for local authority staff as part of the evaluation programme. However, this will not include data on fraud and error.

Medical Examination Centres

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the impact on benefit claimants in *(a)* Amber Valley and *(b)* Derbyshire of the decision to close the medical examination centres in Derbyshire; and if he will make a statement; [4818]

(2) what requirements were placed by his Department on Atos Origin for determining the provision of medical examination centres for claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* industrial injuries benefit; and if he will make a statement; [4819]

(3) how many Amber Valley residents claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* industrial injuries benefit travelled to medical examination centres in (i) Derby, (ii) Chesterfield, (iii) Mansfield and (iv) Nottingham in each of the last five years. [4820]

Mrs. McGuire: As part of detailed discussion following the award of a new medical services contract the Department and Atos Origin are discussing a range of proposals including an estates strategy that will both improve service standards and secure investment in other areas. Further information will be made available once these discussions have been concluded.

Pension Credit

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Dudley, North and *(b)* Dudley as a whole are in receipt of the pension credit; how much they receive on average; how many people he estimates are eligible; and what steps are (i) in train and (ii) planned to encourage those who are not claiming pension credit to do so. [6957]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of people in receipt of pension credit in Dudley, North and the local authority area of Dudley, and average awards, is set out in the following table. Information on the number of people who are eligible for pension credit is not available in respect of individual constituencies or local authority areas.

The focus of the pension credit take-up campaign now concentrates on those people likely to be entitled but who have not responded to approaches so far. New marketing campaigns have been developed, which maximise the use of available data and which are carefully targeted on the regions and on demographic groups under-represented in relation to the volume of pension credit applications received. We are continually reviewing how the most eligible pensioners are responding to us and assessing alternative ways of contacting them.

Pension credit recipients, Dudley, March 2005

	Households	Individuals	Average award (£)
Dudley, North constituency	6,030	7,635	39.17
Dudley local authority area	18,085	22,955	38.56

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures relate to the end of the month.

3. Individuals comprise claimants and partners and may contain a small number of partners aged under 60.
4. Parliamentary constituencies and local authority areas are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS directory.
5. The figures for March 2005 are the latest available.
Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 100 per cent. sample

Pension Protection Fund

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how employers will be informed of their expected contribution levels to the Pension Protection Fund; and if he will list the expected 10 largest contributors to the Fund. [6828]

Mr. Timms: Employers will receive an invoice for their Pension Protection Fund initial levy via The Pensions Regulator.

It is not possible to disclose the details of the 10 largest contributors to the Pension Protection Fund. This is "restricted information", held by the Pensions Regulator, where onward disclosure is only permitted to specified bodies for specific purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Pensions Act 2004.

Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 264W, on pensions, if he will list those representatives of the pensions industry with whom the issue of contracting-out was discussed. [7572]

Mr. Timms: My colleagues and I have recently had meetings with various representatives of the pensions industry. These have included representatives from the Association of British Insurers, the Pensions Commission, Watson Wyatt and the National Association of Pension Funds. Contracting out was amongst the issues discussed.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on planned changes *(a)* to increase the minimum financial holdings contained within pension reserves and *(b)* to prohibit inappropriate use of pension funds. [7637]

Mr. Timms: The new scheme funding requirements set out in the Pensions Act 2004, and due to come into effect later this year, will require the trustees of private sector defined benefit schemes to adopt a funding strategy appropriate to the circumstances of their scheme. This strategy must provide for the scheme's pension commitments to be funded on a sufficiently prudent basis as required by the European Directive on the Activities and Supervision of Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision.

New regulations governing occupational scheme investments, due to come into force later this year, will incorporate the prudent person principle explicitly into pensions legislation, in particular by requiring trustees to exercise their investment powers to ensure the security, quality, liquidity and profitability of the portfolio as a whole as required by the European Directive mentioned above. These provisions build on the existing fiduciary duty of pension scheme trustees to act in the best interest of their members, and statutory safeguards which require trustees to have regard to the suitability of proposed investments and the diversification of scheme assets, and the maintenance of a written statement of investment principles.

Since April this year, the Pensions Regulator has been able to apply to the High Court for an injunction (in Scotland to the Court of Session for an interdict), which the court may grant where it is satisfied that there is a reasonable likelihood that a person will do an act which constitutes a misuse or misappropriation of assets of an occupational or personal pension scheme; or a person has done any such act and that there is a reasonable likelihood that he will continue or repeat the act or do a similar act.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make a statement on the applicability of the Pensions Protection Fund to Dexion pensions holders; [7638]

(2) if he will make a statement on planned state support for the Dexion pension holders; [7642]

(3) if he will make a statement on the timeframe for action by his Department on support for Dexion pensions holders. [7645]

Mr. Timms: The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) came into force on 6 April 2005. Members of pension schemes that began winding up before that date are not eligible for compensation form the PPF, but may be eligible for support from the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). The Dexion Group Pension and Assurance Scheme was included in the indicative list, published on 22 February, of schemes which may be eligible for the FAS. Final decisions on whether schemes are eligible for FAS will be made as soon as possible after the FAS regulations have come into force. Draft regulations were laid on 22 June and are awaiting parliamentary approval.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on plans to modify the cap on support for individuals in collapsed pensions schemes. [7639]

Mr. Timms: The level of the Pension Protection Fund compensation cap is prescribed in regulations and will be increased annually in line with earnings. The level of the proposed cap on Financial Assistance Scheme payments is set out in the draft regulations which were laid on 22 June.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the taxable status of compensatory pensions for Dexion pension holders. [7640]

Mr. Timms: Any payment received by members of the Dexion pension scheme from the Financial Assistance Scheme will be treated for tax purposes in broadly the same way as payments from an occupational pension scheme.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many company pensions have failed in each year since 1997; how many pension holders were affected; what the nominal pension reserve was in each case; whether withdrawals had been made

from each pension fund at the time of the collapse of the business; how much and what proportion of the pension fund remained in each such case; and if he will make a statement; [7641]

(2) how many pension funds have collapsed since 1997. [7643]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested.

Such information as is available from the register of pension schemes maintained by the Pensions Regulator indicates that around 720 private sector defined benefit schemes (with around 140,000 members in all) started to wind up between January 2000 and October 2004. These figures do not include schemes which completed wind-up during that period. The figures do not distinguish between schemes connected to solvent and insolvent employers. Information in the register on schemes which started to wind up before January 2000 does not show whether wind-up started before or after 1997. The register does not hold the information requested on scheme funding.

In addition, data collected to inform development of the Financial Assistance Scheme, and published on 22 February, indicates that at least 380 defined benefit schemes with an insolvent employer started to wind up between January 1997 and December 2004. Only very limited data was collected on scheme funding.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former Dexion *(a)* workers and *(b)* retired workers he estimates are principally reliant on state pensions. [7721]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the backdating of compensatory Government payments for Dexion pension holders. [7722]

Mr. Timms: The draft regulations for the Financial Assistance Scheme were laid on 22 June 2005 and are awaiting parliamentary approval. These contain a provision for payments to be backdated to the date we announced the Financial Assistance Scheme (14 May 2004) or the day on which the qualifying member reached the age of 65, whichever is the later. Arrears payments are likely to be in the form of a lump sum.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what level of basic state pension a person must have before a full state second pension added onto it will bring them outside eligibility for current pension credit. [5648]

Mr. Timms: "A person who is entitled to the maximum amount of Additional State Pension (SERPS and State Second Pension), currently around £140 per week, would also be entitled to a basic state pension of more than half the current rate thus producing an income of at least £180 per week. A single person with income at this level would not normally be eligible for pension credit. However, people with severe disability, caring responsibility and housing costs could still be eligible."

Return to Work

Mr. McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to help people with adverse health conditions and disabilities to return to work. [5043]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* We are reforming the benefit system to encourage and promote work for those who are able to work and security for those for whom work is not an option. For people with adverse health conditions and disabilities, work is a real option if they are offered appropriate support in a timely way. Evidence shows the longer people remain on benefit the less likely they are to make the transition back to work.

Early evidence from the innovative Pathways to Work approach is very positive. Around 20 per cent. of all those attending work-focused interviews (WFIs) take up one of the forms of back-to-work help available in Pathways areas. This is nearly six times higher than the level accessing back to work help elsewhere. It compares to around 4 per cent. in Jobcentre Plus pathfinder districts and around 2 per cent. nationally. By the end of March 2005, around 13,400 people have been helped back to work in the Pathways areas.

Skills Shortages

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies that remained unfilled because of skills shortages in each year between 2001–02 and 2003–04. [7391]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

No estimate is made of the total number of skill shortage vacancies over the period of a whole year but estimates are made of the level of such vacancies at a particular point in a year. My Department estimated that there were 159,000 vacancies that remained unfilled because of skills shortages at the time of the survey in 2001 and 135,000 in 2003. No estimate was made in 2002.

HEALTH

Acrylamide (Foodstuffs)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the public health implications arising from the presence of acrylamide in foodstuffs, with particular reference to potato crisps. [7043]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Acrylamide occurs naturally in a wide range of home-cooked and processed food including potato crisps. It has been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals. Research into the effects on humans is on-going. Whilst encouraging initiatives to reduce acrylamide levels in food, the Food Standards Agency continues to recommend that people should eat a balanced healthy diet, including plenty of fruit and vegetables.

Adverse Incidents

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal adverse incidents occurred in hospitals in the NHS in each year since 1997, broken down by month. [5941]

Jane Kennedy: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

However, the Department is concerned about national health service patients affected by adverse events and that is why it established the National Patient Safety Agency in July 2001 and asked it to set up a national reporting and learning system for patient safety incidents. This system is now in place across the NHS and will in time enable us to understand the nature and extent of patient safety incidents and take further action to prevent or minimise their reoccurrence.

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the availability of drugs for patients with moderately severe to severe Alzheimer's disease in Milton Keynes. [6974]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently reviewing its 2001 appraisal of Alzheimer's drugs. Until NICE completes this review and issues new guidance, the 2001 guidance remains extant and those benefiting from the drugs in question will continue to do so.

NICE is also pursuing an appraisal of non-Alzheimer pharmaceutical treatments. This appraisal has been halted while NICE awaits further information on drug licensing and marketing.

NICE is also producing a comprehensive guideline on the treatment and care of those with dementia. This will take account of the appraisals being done on drug treatments for dementia. A draft of the guideline will be consulted on in 2006.

The Milton Keynes primary care trust (PCT) carries out assessments for the use of Alzheimer's drugs using the NICE guidelines and prescribes according to them. The PCT will consider future practice when the NICE consultation has concluded and recommendations are made.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure on drugs available on the NHS for Alzheimer's disease was in Hornsey and Wood Green in the latest year for which figures are available; how many Alzheimer's disease patients are being treated by primary care trusts in Hornsey and Wood Green; how much was spent by the NHS on drug treatments for advanced Alzheimer's disease patients in Hornsey and Wood Green in the latest year for which figures are available; and what assessment she has made of the availability of drugs for patients with moderately severe to severe Alzheimer's disease in Hornsey and Wood Green. [6703]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ambulance Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken of *(a)* the impact on tri-service arrangements, *(b)* rural issues and *(c)* the future of patient transport in the report on the possible reconfiguration of the ambulance trusts for Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; what (i) patient and (ii) public involvement there were in the preparation of the report; and if she will make a statement. [6812]

Caroline Flint: The review of ambulance services that have taken place across the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area, is centred around the ambulance service's main role of emergency care and its management structure.

The future of tri-service arrangements will be for the new organisation to decide while ensuring the preservation of good local services as a priority.

The rural nature of large parts of Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA have been a significant factor in the review, however, patient transport is not part of the review criteria.

The steering group overseeing the review has been made up of all key stakeholders, not members of the public as this is a management report. The SHA is undertaking a period of communication with all key stakeholders, including staff and patients, over the summer period. It will take on board the views of people across the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA area. Changes to management and organisational structure do not require formal consultation as part of Section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001. However, a discussion is planned to take place with national health service staff, the boards of all organisations involved and key stakeholders on the preferred option. A draft discussion document will be presented to the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA board for approval on 7 July 2005. A special board meeting is planned for 20 October 2005 to consider the results.

Audiology Services

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce the number of people waiting *(a)* to be assessed for their first NHS hearing aid and *(b)* to switch from analogue to digital aids. [6463]

Mr. Byrne: Through the modernising hearing aids (MHAS) programme, which was completed in March 2005, the Department has taken several steps to help the national health service increase the capacity of the hearing aid services to reduce waiting lists for assessment and provision of digital hearing aids. These include:

The establishment of the national framework contract public private partnership (PPP). MHAS estimates that by 2006, 52,950 patients will have been fitted with digital hearing aids through PPP.

Development of a new degree to help to address the shortage of audiologists—180 students started the audiology BSc. course in 2004–05.

Setting up pilot sites for "Hearing Direct". These offer follow-up care and advice for selected hearing aid users and reduces the patient journey time. Research suggests it may be suitable for one third of all NHS hearing aid patients.

"Forget Me Not" Report

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made against the priorities for action set out in the Audit Commission's Forget Me Not report in 2002. [6401]

Mr. Byrne: The recommendations in the "Forget Me Not" report were principally addressed to local health and social care agencies. It is for these local agencies to decide on their priorities in the light of local circumstances.

Autism

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support services are provided for people who suffer from autism; and if she will make a statement. [7741]

Mr. Byrne: It is for local authorities and health service providers to determine how best to provide services to meet the needs of individuals with autism, including those with autistic spectrum disorder.

British Pregnancy Advisory Service

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 302W on the British Pregnancy Advisory Service; when she expects to complete her consideration of the Chief Medical Officer's report on the BPAS. [6915]

Caroline Flint: As my reply of 14 June stated, it would be inappropriate to comment any further at this stage.

Broomfield Tip (Fire)

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has undertaken into the effect of benzen particulates and gases emanating from the fire at Broomfield Tip, Standish, on the health of residents in the vicinity. [7289]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* This is a matter for the Director of Public Health at the Ashton, Wigan Primary Care Trust and the Health Protection Agency.

Bt 10 Maize

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what quantities of Bt 10 maize have been imported into the UK; over what period; and what quantities she estimates have been consumed by *(a)* animals and *(b)* humans. [5880]

Caroline Flint: The exact quantity of Bt 10 maize imported into the United Kingdom is not known. It is estimated that up to 0.025 per cent., of the 2001–04 United States of America maize harvests may have contained Bt 10 maize and imports into the EU during this period may have contained Bt 10 maize at this level. The European food industry has stated to the commission that it only uses US maize products that are from protected non-genetically modified sources. The quantities of Bt 10 maize imported to the UK for food use should therefore be nil. Maize in the form of corn gluten feed and brewers' grains is imported from the US for animal feed. However, the amount of Bt 10 maize potentially consumed by animals is not known.

Burns Units (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist burns services units there are in the Greater London region. [6698]

Jane Kennedy: Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is the only specialist burns service unit within Greater London.

Cancer (Waiting Times)

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mean waiting time in days from the time of diagnosis by consultant to hospital admission for treatment was for *(a)* cancer of the brain, *(b)* cancer of the prostate, *(c)* cancer of the ovary and *(d)* cancer of the liver in (i) 1997–98 and (ii) 2003–04. [4938]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data are not collected centrally in the format requested.

Cancer Treatment

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have contracts with private companies for the examination of cervical cancer smear tests; which companies are involved; and whether any send smear tests outside the UK for screening. [6584]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not centrally collect data on the use of independent sector providers of cervical screening services, and we are not aware that any cervical screening slides are sent outside of the United Kingdom to be interpreted. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning cervical screening services for their local populations to explicit national quality standards. It is a matter for individual PCTs to decide on who provides their local service, whether in the national health service or the independent sector.

The advisory committee on cervical screening has agreed a set of standards for laboratories reporting cervical screening slides outside of the NHS, including overseas.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the availability of antibody treatment for cancer in the NHS; [7713]

(2) what research she has evaluated on antibody treatment for cancer. [7714]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are several monoclonal antibodies that are licensed for the treatment of cancer and can be prescribed to patients on the national health service. These are cetuximab for the treatment of advanced colorectal cancer; trastuzumab for the treatment of advanced breast cancer, alemtuzumab for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and rituximab for the treatment of follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) has appraised two of these drugs—trastuzumab for advanced breast cancer and rituximab for the treatment

of follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. These appraisals included an evaluation of the available research evidence. NICE is now in the process of appraising cetuximab for advanced colorectal cancer. This guidance is expected to be published in November 2006.

Care Homes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the Office of Fair Trading's report on care homes for older people. [6029]

Mr. Byrne: The Office of Fair Trading published a report on care homes for older people on 18 May 2005. The report made a number of recommendations to the Government, which are currently under consideration.

Care Provision Funding

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution to the cost of care provision came from *(a)* equity release and *(b)* other property based loans in (i) absolute and (ii) percentage terms, in the last period for which figures are available; and what plans she has to bring forward proposals to change this proportion. [5953]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally.

We made a manifesto commitment to provide the right framework to make staying at home an attractive option for people in need of long-term care for schemes, through schemes such as equity release. We are considering how to take forward this commitment.

Clinical Negligence Claims

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence claims were made against NHS bodies in each year since 1996. [1353]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 June 2005]:* Centrally collected data from the NHS Litigation Authority is shown in the following table:

Total number of clinical negligence claims reported to the NHSLA based upon date reported to the NHSLA scheme member, as at 31 March 2005

	Number
1996–97	4,136
1997–98	6,932
1998–99	6,916
1999–2000	7,036
2000–01	6,915
2001–02	7,215
2002–03	6,257
2003–04	4,844

Notes:

1. Clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST) claims are those in respect of liabilities occurring on or after 1 April 1995. Existing liability scheme (ELS) claims are those open at 1 April 1996, where the incident pre dates 1 April 1995. Former Regional health authority (RHA) claims are pre-April 1996 and are cases against the former RHAs, fully funded by the NHSLA.
2. The year a claim is notified to the NHSLA has no relevance to the year the incident giving rise to a claim occurred.

Clostridium Difficile

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the first statistics will be published from the mandatory surveillance of *(a) Clostridium difficile* infections and *(b)* surgical site infections. [5940]

Jane Kennedy: Data from the mandatory surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea will be available this summer and information for orthopaedic surgical site infections will be published in the autumn. This data is likely to be published annually.

Continuing Care

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she has taken to assess the legality of the guidance given to strategic health authorities concerning the provision of free continuing care since publication of recommendation 15 of the Health Committee Report of 5 April; [7742]

(2) what guidance she has given to social service departments concerning the regulations issued in 2001 that self-funders cannot be required to sell their homes in their own lifetime since the then Minister's evidence on the subject to the Health Select Committee on 17 March; [7743]

(3) what steps she has taken to secure compliance by strategic health authorities with recommendation 17 of the Health Committee Report of 5 April on the assessment of patients with continuing needs before they leave hospital; [7744]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she has taken to secure compliance by strategic health authorities with her Department's guidance recorded in paragraph 151 of the Health Committee report of 5 April concerning assessment for continuing care. [7760]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are considering the Committee's report and we will publish our response before the summer recess.

Dementia

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had, and with whom, on the recommendations made in the report of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Alzheimer's Society on early onset dementia; and if she will make a statement. [5105]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no discussions on this report. I understand the report will be published in its final form in the autumn. We are working with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Alzheimer's Society to improve mental health services for older people.

Digital Hearing Aids

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time patients diagnosed as having hearing problems waited to be fitted with digital hearing aids was in the last year for which figures are available; what the figures were in each region; and if she will make a statement. [7739]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally.

Drug Rehabilitation (Portsmouth)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which drug rehabilitation centres are available to residents of Portsmouth within a 10-mile radius of the city centre. [6588]

Caroline Flint: I am advised by Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust that the rehabilitation centres are:

ANA Portsmouth

Two Saints Foster Road

Phoenix Alpha House, Droxford.

ECT Treatment

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England have undergone electroconvulsive therapy in each of the past five years; and how many were *(a)* 50 years or over and *(b)* 65 years or over. [6395]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the requested format. The latest information available on electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) is that contained in the Department's publication "Statistical Bulletin Electro Convulsive Therapy: Survey covering the period from January 2002 to March 2002, England". This was a follow-up to an earlier survey of the period January to March 1999. Both surveys were undertaken to provide data on ECT that are not currently available elsewhere.

The 2002 survey confirmed the continuing downward trend in the number of administrations of ECT. It collected information from national health service and independent sector care settings, including nursing homes, on the total number of administrations of ECT in NHS and independent sector care settings including data on sex, age, ethnicity, legal status and method of consent.

It found that in the period January to March 2002:

2,300 patients received ECT treatment compared to 2,800 in 1999; there were 700 male patients receiving treatment, compared with 1,600 female patients; there were 12,800 administrations of ECT compared to 16,500 in January to March 1999; of the 2,272 patients in England who underwent ECT in 2002, 1,709 were aged 45 and over, and 1,053 were aged 65 and over. This compares to figures of 2,079 and 1,176, respectively, of the total of 2,835 in the 1999 survey.

Copies of the 2002 survey and the earlier 1999 survey are available in the Library.

Edgware Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the progress over the proposed MRI scanner for Edgware hospital. [5831]

Jane Kennedy: A site for an magnetic resonance imaging scanner has been identified at Edgware hospital, but further work is necessary before final decisions can be taken.

Epidermolysis Bullosa

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to improve *(a)* awareness of and *(b)* training on epidermolysis bullosa for health professionals; and if she will make a statement. [6702]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is not responsible for setting curricula for health professional training. However, we do share a commitment with statutory and professional bodies that all health professionals are trained, so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal, whatever their condition.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Food Procurement

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by her Department on public procurement of food in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what proportion of that expenditure was covered under Crown immunity on food safety matters. [5786]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has a catering contract which is maintained at nil subsidy and covers four headquarters buildings. The contractor is responsible for ensuring that all his staff are fully trained in food safety procedures. As the contractor is not a Crown body, it is are not covered by Crown immunity.

General Practitioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 8 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 587W, on general practitioner appointments, how many patients were included in the monitoring data; and what definition of patients is used for the purposes of the monitoring exercise. [5904]

Mr. Byrne: The Department holds data on the appointment arrangements which each general practice offers to its patients. This data is collected monthly by primary care trusts and the results are converted into numbers of patients using each practiced registered list size. For April, the total number of patients was 52,786,540.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients have not had the opportunity to book advance GP appointments, in each month since the monitoring process began. [6563]

Mr. Byrne: The data requested is shown in the table.

Month	*Patients who cannot book more than two days in advance (percentage)*
November 2004	12.4
December 2004	7.6
January 2005	6.5

Month	Patients who cannot book more than two days in advance (percentage)
February 2005	5.4
March 2005	3.6
April 2005	1.5
May 2005	1.3

GM Food

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the implications for human health of the consumption of GM foods containing antibiotic resistance marker genes. [5884]

Caroline Flint: In the European Union, all genetically modified (GM) foods are subject to a mandatory pre-market safety assessment before they can be permitted to enter the food chain. This assessment is the responsibility of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and is based on a wide body of scientific evidence submitted in support of each application, including data on the presence of antibiotic resistance marker genes (ARMs). The significance of the presence of these genes is assessed on a case by case basis.

In April 2004, the EFSA scientific panel on genetically modified organisms published an opinion on the use of ARMs in GM plants. The UK advisory committee on novel foods and processes (ACNFP) considered this opinion at its meeting in May 2004. The Committee agreed with EFSA's conclusion that the safety of ARMS should take into account both the prevalence of resistance to the antibiotic among bacteria, in the intestine or in the environment, and the extent of use of the antibiotic and its importance for clinical human or animal therapy.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account has been taken of Food Standards Agency research in formulating the Government's policy on genetically modified food; and if she will make a statement. [6811]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) were set up as a non-ministerial Government Department in April 2000 and has the objective of protecting public health from risks associated with consumption of food, and otherwise protecting the interests of consumers in relation to food. Government policy on genetically modified food is formulated through discussion among all the relevant Government Departments, including the FSA.

Health Authority for London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to create a Health Authority for London; and if she will make a statement. [5829]

Jane Kennedy: There are currently five strategic health authorities (SHAs) in London. As stated in "Creating a Patient-Led NHS" (March 2005), the Department expects a reduction in the number of SHAs as more national health service trusts move to NHS foundation trust status. However, no decisions about the future of London SHAs, including whether there should be a single health authority, have been taken.

Health Care Demand (London)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of *(a)* the current and *(b)* the expected growth in demand for maternity services in London; and if she will make a statement. [7067]

Jane Kennedy: In line with the Department's "Shifting the Balance of Power" policy, any assessment on current and expected demand for local maternity services would be for strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to consider.

Health Development Agency

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget was allocated to the Health Development Agency in each year since its inception. [5687]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Health Development Agency Allocations[1]: information taken from HDA published accounts

£ thousand

	Total allocations from Government sources
2000–01	11,288
2001–02	12,261
2002–03	11,015
2003–04	11,992
2004–05[2]	12,943

[1] The Health Development Agency was abolished on 31 March 2005 and its functions transferred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on 1 April 2005.

[2] The final accounts for the HDA's last year of operation have not yet been completed. The figure quoted is from the Department of Health's cash limit allocation letter to the HDA.

Health Finance (Oxfordshire)

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much and what percentage of the Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare Trust budget she expects to come from *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* other sources; and from which other sources she expects such funds to come; [6799]

(2) how much and what percentage of the Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust budget for 2005–06 she expects to come from *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* reserve funding, *(c)* funding on a consequence of the John Radcliffe being a teaching hospital and *(d)* other sources; and from which other sources she expects such funding to come. [6800]

Caroline Flint: The table shows data for 2003–04, which is the latest year for which figures are available.

The Department has no information relating to reserve funding or to funding on a consequence of the John Radcliffe being a teaching hospital.

Income of the Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare National Health Service Trust and the Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust, 2003–04

£000

	Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust	Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust
Income from activities—income received from:		
Strategic health authorities	0	1,841
NHS trusts	307	31
Primary care trusts	55,184	318,297
Local authorities	47	0
Non NHS: private patients	47	12,140
Non-NHS: overseas patients (non-reciprocal)	0	102
Road Traffic Act	3	1,165
Non NHS: other	0	2
Total income from activities	55,588	333,578
Other operating income—income received from:		
Education, training and research	6,400	40,514
Charitable and other contributions to expenditure	0	2,449
Transfers from the donated asset reserve in respect of depreciation, impairment and disposal of donated assets	22	1,938
Other income, for example, charges to staff, income from the Department for non-patient care services	19,975	45,462
Total other operating income	26,397	90,363
Total income	81,985	423,941

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules of the Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust and the Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust, 2003–04.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the formula is on which funding is allocated to the *(a)* Cherwell Vale Primary Care Trust, *(b)* North East Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Oxford City Primary Care Trust. [6801]

Caroline Flint: A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each primary care trust's (PCTs) target share of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The components of the formula are used to weight each PCTs "crude" population according to their relative need (age and additional need) for healthcare and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (the market forces factor).

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by how much she expects *(a)* Oxford Radcliffe NHS Trust, *(b)* Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust and *(c)* primary care trusts in Oxfordshire to overspend in the 2005–06 financial year. [6803]

Caroline Flint: The financial plans for 2005–06 have not yet been finalised, but national health service organisations are expected to plan to live within their revenue resource, capital resource and cash limits each and every year.

Hepatitis C

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with hepatitis C in England in each of the last seven years. [7276]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is available on the Health Protection Agency's website at: www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hepatitis_c/data.htm

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fibre scan machines used to diagnose hepatitis C there are in England. [7277]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally. FibroScan(r) is used to measure the degree of liver fibrosis (scarring) from any cause. It is not used to diagnose hepatitis C.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the establishment of managed clinical networks to provide accessible specialist assessment and treatment for people with hepatitis C infection since the publication of the National Hepatitis C Strategy for England. [6139]

Caroline Flint: In line with "Shifting the Balance of Power", decisions about networks and their funding are for local determination. We understand that managed clinical networks have so far either been established or are being considered in London, South West peninsula, East Anglia, West Midlands, Trent, Liverpool and North East England.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role she plans for screening in the process of controlling the spread and progression of hepatitis C infections. [6140]

Caroline Flint: Testing of those at current or past risk of hepatitis C infection by the national health service and other key stakeholders is one of the key areas for action set out in the Department's "Hepatitis C Action Plan for England", which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/47/13/04084713.pdf.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to improve data collection relating to the spread of hepatitis C in England. [6141]

Caroline Flint: Actions to improve the epidemiological surveillance of hepatitis C are set out in the Department's "Hepatitis C Action Plan for England", which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/47/13/04084713.pdf.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the level of monitoring of disease progression of hepatitis C among sufferers with mild liver disease. [6142]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not made such an assessment. The monitoring of individual patients with hepatitis C who have mild disease is a matter for clinical judgement.

In 2001, The Royal College of Physicians of London and the British Society of Gastroenterology published "Clinical guidelines on the management of hepatitis C". This is available on the Gut website at http://gut.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/49/suppl_1/I1

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is her policy to reduce bed occupancy levels in NHS trusts to 82 per cent. [2278]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not set targets for bed occupancy for national health service trusts. Appropriate occupancy levels, which vary depending on the range and type of services they provide, and the way in which the admission and discharge of patients is managed, are for the NHS to determine locally.

Hospital Cleaning

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cleaners in hospitals in England are employed by *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* private contractors providing services to the NHS; and if she will make a statement; [6736]

(2) how many cleaners are employed at each hospital in England; and if she will make a statement. [6737]

Jane Kennedy: National health service organisations make decisions locally on the number and supplier, either NHS-employed or contracted out, of cleaners for their estate, consistent with their requirements.

The latest headcount figure for the number of staff who undertake cleaning in the NHS is 55,000 for 2003–04. This figure excludes managers, administrative and supervisory staff who do not physically carry out cleaning functions as a main part of their work. In collecting this data from the NHS, no distinction is made between NHS employees and contracted out staff.

Other staff groups may also carry out cleaning in addition to their main role; these staff are not included. For instance, in some trusts nurses may be responsible for cleaning patient equipment and for dealing with spillages out of hours.

Information on the breakdown of this figure, by individual NHS hospital trust, has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on proposals *(a)* to reduce bed numbers and *(b)* to change service provision at the West Herts Hospital Trust's Hemel Hempstead and Watford hospitals. [6570]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In line with our policy of "Shifting the Balance of Power", the configuration of local services is a matter for the local national health service, working in partnership with its local community.

The reconfiguration of services at West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust is part of the wider reconfiguration of services in both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, known as "Investing in Your Health". The strategic outline case for this major reconfiguration of services was approved in July 2004 by the then Secretary of State for Health.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses employed in *(a)* Sunderland Royal Hospital, *(b)* Hartlepool University Hospital and *(c)* Durham University Hospital were recruited from outside the UK. [6880]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not collect this information centrally. While information is collected on the country of qualification of nurses, this does not equate to their location when recruited to work in the national health service.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many palliative care beds there have been in *(a)* Sunderland Royal Hospital, *(b)* Hartlepool University Hospital and *(c)* Durham University Hospital in each year since 1997. [6883]

Mr. Byrne: The table shows the numbers of beds and those specifically identified as palliative beds for the trusts concerned. It should be noted that beds may be used for palliative care without being specifically designated as such.

Average daily number of available beds, NHS organisations in England, 2003–04

	1997–98		*1998–99*	
Name	*Total beds*	*Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult*	*Total beds*	*Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult*
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Trust	1,005	0	997	0
North Tees Health NHS Trust	639	0	620	0
Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust	445	0	441	0
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	—	—	—	—
South Durham NHS Trust	432	0	—	—
Bishop Auckland Hospitals NHS Trust	406	0	—	—

Average daily number of available beds, NHS organisations in England, 2003–04

Name	1997–98 Total beds	1997–98 Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult	1998–99 Total beds	1998–99 Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult
Darlington Memorial Hospital NHS Trust	381	0	—	—
South Durham Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	812	0
North Durham Community Health Care NHS Trust	418	0	—	—
North Durham Acute Hospitals Trust	611	0	—	—
North Durham Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	746	0
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—

Name	1999–2000 Total beds	1999–2000 Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult	2000–01 Total beds	2000–01 Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Trust	957	0	972	0
North Tees Health NHS Trust	—	—	—	—
Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust	—	—	—	—
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	844	0	868	0
South Durham NHS Trust	—	—	—	—
Bishop Auckland Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—
Darlington Memorial Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—
South Durham Health Care NHS Trust	790	0	829	0
North Durham Community Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	—	—
North Durham Acute Hospitals Trust	—	—	—	—
North Durham Health Care NHS Trust	701	0	720	0
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—

Name	2001–02 Total beds	2001–02 Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult	2002–03 Total beds	2002–03 Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult	2003–04 Total beds	2003–04 Terminally ill/palliative care: wholly or mainly adult
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Trust	981	0	959	18	978	18
North Tees Health NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hartlepool and East Durham NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	841	0	824	0	823	0
South Durham NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bishop Auckland Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
Darlington Memorial Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Durham Health Care NHS Trust	833	0	817	0	—	—
North Durham Community Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Durham Acute Hospitals Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Durham Health Care NHS Trust	613	0	649	0	—	—
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	1,488	0

Note:
The terminally ill/palliative care figures provided include all beds in wards classified as such.
Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Intensive Care/High Dependency (Costs)

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency care in Enfield was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what percentage this represented of the overall budget for NHS hospital beds in Enfield in that year. [7615]

Mr. Byrne: The national average cost of an occupied bed day in a discrete critical care unit is collected in the annual national health service reference costs exercise, directly from NHS providers. There are two hospitals in Enfield; Chase Farm hospital, part of Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust and North Middlesex university hospitals NHS trust.

Data provided by these organisations for the reference costs 2004 collection, with regard to discrete critical care services, is shown in table 1.

Table 1: costs per occupied bed day in each type of discrete unit

	Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust		North Middlesex university hospitals NHS trust	
Unit type	*Cost per occupied bed day (£)*	*Number of occupied bed days*	*Cost per occupied bed day (£)*	*Number of occupied bed days*
Intensive therapy unit/intensive care unit	1,208	4,744	1,235	2,792
Cardiac intensive care unit	478	5,309	n/a	n/a
High dependency unit	n/a	n/a	517	1,354
Neonatal intensive care unit—level 1	750	1,672	938	449
Neonatal intensive care unit—level 2	n/a	n/a	420	5,073

Table 2 shows the total cost of critical care services and that cost as a percentage of the overall expenditure for each of the NHS providers located in Enfield. It also shows details of the calculated total picture for Enfield.

Table 2: total cost of critical care services

	Total costs of discrete critical care services (£ thousand)	*Percentage of overall expenditure*
Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust	9,526	4.6
North Middlesex university hospitals NHS trust	6,701	6.0
Enfield calculated total	16,227	5.1

Jarvis plc (Private Finance Initiative)

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the private finance initiative contracts that exist between NHS organisations and Jarvis plc. [5939]

Mr. Byrne: In January 2005 Jarvis's shareholding in national health service private finance initiative (PFI) projects was ended when the infrastructure investment group secondary market infrastructure fund bought out its equity interests in two project companies which hold PFI contracts with NHS bodies—the Whittington hospitals NHS trust and Birmingham hospitals NHS trust. Jarvis subsidiary companies continue to provide construction and long-term facilities management (FM) services at these schemes, under a subcontract with the project companies.

Jarvis is also a subcontractor of a charitable trust which has entered into a PFI contract with Newbury and Community primary care trust. Jarvis group companies acted as the construction contractor and are now providing FM services.

Leukaemia

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will meet the charity Children with Leukaemia to discuss the implications of the Draper report; and if she will make a statement. [6190]

Caroline Flint: There are currently no plans to meet the charity Children with Leukaemia. The recent publication in the British Medical Journal by Dr. Draper and colleagues found a statistically increased incidence of leukaemia for children whose home address at birth was near power lines compared with those further away. The work was funded by the Department and has significantly added to the body of knowledge built up over the last few years regarding this very important subject. The work will continue with an investigation of the electromagnetic field (EMF) exposures at the addresses studied.

A number of population studies in the past have linked magnetic field exposure with a raised incidence of childhood leukaemia. This has led to the International Agency for Cancer Research to classify extremely low frequency fields or ELF, such as those associated with power lines and domestic wiring as a "possible carcinogen". The World Health Organisation and indeed the Health Protection Agency have recommended additional research and the need for further precautionary measures to be considered.

The stakeholder advisory group on electromagnetic ELF fields (SAGE) set up last year has already enabled Government officials to engage in detailed discussions with industry, regulators, professional bodies and interest groups about how to respond to this complex issue. The intention of the process is to offer carefully considered recommendations in the interests of society as a whole, which can be found on R.K. Partnership's website at: www.rkpartnership.co.uk/sage

Hair Dyes (Cancer Risk)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will commission research into possible links between the use of hair dye and lymphoma. [6430]

Caroline Flint: There has been some research which suggested a weak link between occupational use of hair dyes and increased risk of cancer, although overall the epidemiological literature is unclear whether an association exists between use of hair dyes and lymphoma.

The European Union initiated a review of hair dyes a few years ago. Advice on the standards of testing and research to be undertaken by industry in order to support continued use of hair dyes was provided by the EU's Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products and Non-Food products intended for consumers (SCCNFP). The SCCNFP has subsequently been replaced by the Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products (SCCP). The SCCP is continuing the review of hair dyes and its agendas, minutes and opinions are available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph risk/committees/04 sccp/04 SCCP en.htm.

Mental Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been treated by child and adolescent mental health services in each of the last eight years. [4646]

Mr. Byrne: Since 2002, some data about the overall child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) case load in England has been collected by the annual CAMHS mapping exercise. This includes a snapshot of the total CAMHS case load in England in a four-week

period. The case load is defined as the number of active cases that CAMHS teams worked with during the four-week period. The table shows a headcount of children and young people who have received support, treatment and care from specialist CAMHS professionals.

Finished consultant episodes under mental illness specialities in national health service hospitals by age at end of episode: Children and adolescents, 1996–97 to 2003–04[1]

Data year	*Aged 18 and under*	*All episodes*
2003–04[1]	5,780	187,540
2002–03[1]	5,170	197,070
2001–02	5,400	206,910
2000–01	5,140	213,840
1999–2000	5,120	224,300
1998–99	5,200	228,170
1997–98	5,770	236,000
1996–97	6,180	237,370

[1] Data for the years 2002–03 and 2003–04 have not yet been adjusted for shortfalls in data and unknown/invalid clinical data, ie the data are ungrossed.

Notes:

1. Disclosure rules apply due to the sensitive nature of the data; therefore, figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. In the four-week period in 2002 a total of 80,602 children and young people were seen and this increased to 86,521 in 2003. The 2004 CAMHS mapping will be published shortly.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to reduce violent and threatening behaviour within mental health wards. [5995]

Jane Kennedy: At national level a head of mental health and learning disabilities has been appointed by the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) to lead on a specific programme of work, aimed at providing safe, secure and therapeutic environments in mental health and learning disability settings. The post holder has extensive clinical experience in these environments and was formerly a professional advisor to the Nursing and Midwifery Council on violence against staff. The head is responsible for the development of professionally trained and accredited local security management specialists for mental health and learning disability settings, which will be fully implemented in these areas by summer 2006.

The local security management specialists, supported by the NHS SMS, will ensure that each mental health and learning disability trust has access to professional and specialist skills to tackle issues such as violence in these settings. This role includes developing preventative measures as well as managing violent incidents when they occur.

The NHS SMS has also developed a training syllabus on non-physical intervention techniques for those working in mental health and learning disability settings. This syllabus will be rolled out in autumn 2005 and will complement the National Institute for Mental Health in England's (NIMHE) work on physical interventions.

Guidance developed by NIMHE, "Developing Positive Practice to Support the Safe and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence in Mental Health In-patient Settings" (February 2004) and by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence "The Short-term Management of Disturbed/Violent Behaviour in In-patient Psychiatric Settings and Emergency Departments" (February 2005) has already been made available to national health service bodies. A key role for the LSMS will be to ensure that this guidance is implemented where appropriate.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is given to primary care trusts on the provision of *(a)* alternative and *(b)* cognitive behavioural therapies in mental health wards. [5997]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Psychological therapies, which include cognitive behavioural therapy, were included alongside drug treatments in the national service framework for mental heath (1999) to reflect their importance alongside drug treatments, and their popularity with some service users. In 2001, an evidence based guideline, "Treatment choice in psychological therapies and counselling" was published in 2001 to help general practitioners and other professionals know more about the most effective treatments for particular conditions. A booklet for service users and carers, "Choosing talking treatments?", was also published in 2001 to help them know the questions to ask when seeking a talking treatment. The Department also published a best practice guide entitled "Organising and delivering psychological therapies" (2004) in order to help local services deliver acceptable, accessible, equitable, cost effective and safe psychological therapy services.

As stated in the national director for mental health's recent report on the implementation of the national service framework for mental health, "Five years on", published in 2004, the Department is planning to commission a review of evidence of effectiveness of complementary healthcare for mental health problems. This review will inform the development of a national framework for supporting local innovation in mental health services to make them more responsive to individual needs.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase provision to *(a)* train and *(b)* recruit psychologists for inpatient mental health wards. [6036]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Within the context of implementing the "National mental health workforce strategy" (2004), the Department will continue with its drive to increase the numbers of staff who can deliver psychological therapies which has contributed to an almost 75 per cent. increase in the number clinical psychologists and a 125 per cent. increase in the number of non-medical psychotherapists working in the national health service since 1997.

In addition, as set out in the national director for mental health's report on the implementation of the national service framework for mental health, "Five years on" (2004), a new programme of work in the National Institute for Mental Health in England will explore ways of expanding the availability of talking treatments. These are likely to include improved psychological therapy skills in frontline staff, new staff who are trained in brief interventions of proven effectiveness, self-help technologies and a broader

choice of providers of therapy in the national health service and the independent sector. These initiatives are being supported by the Department's guidance entitled "Organising and Delivering Psychological Therapies" (2004).

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being implemented following the publication of the national service framework for mental health—"Five years on". [6144]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will continue with the implementation of the national service framework for mental health (1999), take forward the recommendations of the Social Exclusion Unit's report on mental health (2004), help challenge discrimination against people with mental health problems through a new anti-stigma programme, eradicate unsuitable mental health wards and work to improve mental health care for ethnic minorities. The Department will put greater emphasis on improving the mental health and well-being of the community as a whole and explore ways of expanding the availability of talking treatments. The Department will continue to work towards its public service agreement target to reduce mortality rates from suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20 per cent. by 2010.

Methadone/Buprenorphine

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she has issued to drug actions teams on the use of *(a)* methadone and *(b)* buprenorphine. [6857]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The Department and the National Treatment Agency, as part of their commitment to appropriate substitute prescribing, have produced a number of pieces of work in support of this objective. These are:

"Clinical Guidelines on the Management of Drug Dependence" (Department of Health, 1999), which is based on an expert review of the evidence. This is a key document underpinning standards of treatment interventions, including substitute prescribing, expected of professionals.

"Research Into Practice: Prescribing Services for Drug Misuse" (National Treatment Agency, January 2003). This document provided recommendations in relation to recommended guiding principles of an effective prescribing regime and the recommended components of an effective prescribing service.

A Chief Medical Officer letter (January 2001) relating to a change in national health service regulations that allowed for the instalment dispensing of buprenorphine. This regulation change was seen as being effective in increasing prescribers' willingness to prescribe buprenorphine as the risk of overdose and diversion was reduced substantially.

As part of our continuing commitment to develop the evidence base in this area as part of our objective to increase the effectiveness of treatment, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, as part of its 10th wave, has agreed to do an appraisal of methadone and buprenorphine in the treatment of drug addiction. This important work, which will be completed by the end of 2006, is likely to be influential in the development of appropriate and effective substitute prescribing in future years.

MMR (Students)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what advice the Department has given to *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* medical centres covering university campuses about the MMR vaccination for students; [3349]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure that unprotected university students are able to receive the MMR vaccination; and if she will make a statement. [3365]

Caroline Flint: The Department continues to support locally organised catch-up campaigns through supplying the MMR vaccine free of charge, and providing supplies of a leaflet containing information on this issue.

The Department sent a Public Health Alert to general practitioners in May 2004, alerting them to the risk posed by cases of mumps occurring at an international student's sports event in Spain. The Department also wrote to immunisation co-ordinators on MMR and older children in January 2005.

The Department's advice remains that all children need two doses of MMR vaccine to be protected against measles, mumps and rubella.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* mumps and *(b)* measles among students there were in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [3364]

Caroline Flint: Data showing the number of laboratory confirmed cases of measles and mumps for the age groups 15 to 19 years, 20 to 24 years, and total cases for the years 2000–04 are shown in the table.

There is no way of knowing exactly how many of these cases relate specifically to university students, but it is likely many will be students in further education institutions.

The increase in mumps cases is predominantly in a particular cohort of children (those born between 1983 and 1987) who would not have been routinely offered MMR. During the last five years the mumps outbreaks have moved from older secondary school students to university/college students (percentage of total cases for each age group show this). We know that many of the mumps cases reported in 2003 to 2005 have been from university and college outbreaks, or linked to these.

Laboratory confirmed cases of measles and mumps : 2000–04

	Mumps					*Measles*				
	15–19 years		*20–24 years*		*all ages*	*15–19 years*		*20–24 years*		*all ages*
	Number	*(%)*	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*
2000	126	17.9	10	1.4	703	6	6.0	4	4.0	100
2001	202	26.0	28	3.6	777	9	12.9	11	15.7	70

Laboratory confirmed cases of measles and mumps : 2000-04

	Mumps					*Measles*				
	15–19 years		*20–24 years*		*all ages*	*15–19 years*		*20–24 years*		*all ages*
	Number	*(%)*	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*	*(%)*	*Number*
2002	244	48.6	50	10.0	502	23	7.5	19	6.2	308
2003	811	52.4	276	17.8	1,549	21	4.8	17	3.8	442
2004	3,793	46.8	2,609	32.2	8,104	3	1.6	7	3.7	190

Source:
Health Protection Agency website http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/measles/data_reg_age.htm
http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/mumps/data_reg_age.htm

Mobile Phone Risks (Children)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the possible risk posed by mobile phones to young children; and if she will make a statement; [5845]

(2) what measures are being taken to reduce the number of young children being exposed to mobile phones. [5846]

Caroline Flint: The comprehensive research reviews in this country undertaken for the Stewart report in 2000 and for the "Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields" do not suggest there are adverse health effects from the use of mobile phone technologies. Most reviews, however, note there are gaps in our scientific knowledge and therefore recommend continued research and the adoption of a precautionary approach with respect to children in particular.

Our advice to parents of children and young people under 16 on the use of mobile phones is set out in the leaflet "Mobile phones and Health", available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/fs/en. It states:

> "the UK Chief Medical Officers strongly advise that where children and young people do use mobile phones, they should be encouraged to use mobile phones for essential purposes only and keep all calls short."

The advice adds that:

> "if parents want to avoid their children being subject to any possible risk that might be identified in the future, the way to do it is to exercise their choice not to let their children use mobile phones."

In line with the Stewart report's precautionary approach, the mobile phone operators reviewed their marketing policies to ensure they do not actively market mobile phones to the under-16s.

A more recent report from the National Radiological Protection Board, now the Health Protection Agency's radiation protection division, issued in January 2005, entitled "Mobile Phones and Health 2004", recommends that limiting the use of mobile phones by children remains an appropriate precautionary measure.

MRSA

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures the Government plans to take to combat the threat of MRSA in hospitals. [6230]

Jane Kennedy: Tackling meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and other healthcare associated infections is a top priority.

Our wide ranging programme to tackle these infections includes:

- a target to halve MRSA blood stream infections by 2008;
- the first national hand hygiene campaign;
- trials of a rapid review MRSA screening test to show if new methods can improve patient care;
- consultation on a new hygiene bill;
- materials for NHS staff such as "Saving Lives: a delivery programme to reduce healthcare associated infections including MRSA".

Needle Exchange Projects (Hepatitis C)

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of needle exchange projects on the prevention of hepatitis C infection in *(a)* the Burton constituency and *(b)* England. [4395]

Caroline Flint: Injecting drug use is a main route of transmission of hepatitis C. Needle exchange services, when provided with a range of other measures including the provision of information and advice about risk and accessible specialised drug treatment services, reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis C and other blood borne virus infections, such as HIV infection. Needle exchange services are available in over 90 per cent. of local authorities in England. As part of the Department's "Hepatitis C Action Plan for England", a national audit of needle exchange schemes is under way which will contribute to monitoring of provision and effectiveness.

In the Burton constituency area, action has been taken to reduce the risks of transmission of hepatitis C through the provision of needle exchange services and other harm reduction services. The Staffordshire drug action team is working with other local partners, including general practitioners and primary care trusts, to develop an intervention strategy for ensuring that this provision remains effective for addressing local needs.

NHS Dentistry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which dentists in the Portsmouth area are accepting new NHS *(a)* children and *(b)* adult patients. [6005]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on which practices are currently taking on new national health service patients is not centrally collected. This information should be available from local primary care trusts or by contacting NHS Direct.

NHS Direct

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the 10 most common reasons for calls to NHS Direct in the most recent year for which figures are available. [5176]

Mr. Byrne: I understand from the Chair of NHS Direct that the 10 most common reasons for calls to NHS Direct where a clinical assessment had been conducted between April 2004 to March 2005 were: abdominal pain; toothache; chest pain; headache; diarrhoea; vomiting; toxic ingestion; fever (age one to four years); sore throat and rash (age one to four years).

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of NHS Direct on staff recruitment in accident and emergency; and if she will make a statement. [6285]

Mr. Byrne: There is no evidence to suggest that NHS Direct has an impact on recruitment in accident and emergency departments.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of NHS Direct on continuity of care; and if she will make a statement. [6286]

Mr. Byrne: NHS Direct is now a multi channel organisation providing access to the service through the online website, digital television and the telephone service. This ensures that all sectors of the population have access to accredited health advice.

During the out-of-hours period, NHS Direct is able to transfer patient information electronically to the out-of-hours provider to enable continuity of care, thus ensuring patients receive appropriate timely advice.

NHS Spending

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what amounts NHS spending was *(a)* above and *(b)* below planned levels in the financial year (i) 2003–04, (ii) 2004–05 and (iii) 2005–06 to date; and if she will make a statement. [3074]

Mr. Byrne: The national health service plans to break even each year. In 2003–04 the NHS finished the year with a small surplus of £73 million.

Unaudited figures for the financial year ending 2004–05, show that the NHS is likely to be in deficit by around £140 million, this represents a fraction of the total budget, at around 0.2 per cent. Audited information in respect of the 2004–05 financial position of all strategic health authorities (SHAs), primary care trusts (PCTs) and NHS trusts will be published in their individual annual accounts, and will be available centrally in autumn 2005.

The financial position for 2005–06 will be available next year.

NHS Staff

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* vacancy rates and *(b)* full role calculations for (i) radiographer and (ii) consultant radiologist posts are in each hospital trust. [5498]

Mr. Byrne: Information on vacancy rates and full-role calculations on three month vacancy rates for radiographer and consultant radiologist posts in each hospital trust has been placed in the Library. Vacancy rates for radiographers fell between March 2003 and March 2004. Vacancy rates for consultant radiologists fell between March 2002 and March 2004.

NHS Trusts (Finances)

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position of each *(a)* primary care trust, *(b)* hospital trust and *(c)* other health service trust was at the end of the last financial year. [5673]

Mr. Byrne: Information showing the position for 2003–04, the latest year for which audited data is available, has been placed in the Library.

Nurses

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses have finished training in Lancashire teaching hospitals in each of the last three years. [7597]

Mr. Byrne: The responsibility for the training of nurses rests with higher education institutions rather than national health service trusts. Trusts do however provide clinical placements for student nurses and continuing professional development opportunities. This information is not collected centrally.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* agency nurses and *(b)* bank nurses in Hull and East Riding (i) Hospitals NHS Trust and (ii) Community Health NHS Trust in each of the last three years. [6549]

Mr. Byrne: The table shows expenditure on agency nurses in both the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals National Health Service Trust and the Hull and East Riding Community Health NHS Trust. Figures are not collected centrally for bank nurses.

Expenditure on agency nurses (£)

	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	*Hull and East Riding Community Health NHS Trust*
2001–02	309,187	281,161
2002–03	551,525	923,245
2003–04	566,582	1,468,029

Note:
Agency nurses—non-NHS nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff
Source:
Annual financial returns of NHS trusts

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS nurses left the Hull and East Riding *(a)* Hospitals NHS Trust and *(b)* Community Health NHS Trust in each of the past five years; [6551]

(2) how many nurses employed by Hull and East Riding *(a)* Hospitals NHS Trust and *(b)* Community Health NHS Trust were recruited from outside the United Kingdom. [6553]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Nutrition (Staff Training)

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements in respect of knowledge of nutrition and malnutrition are placed on registrants by each health and social care regulatory body. [5292]

Mr. Byrne: It is the responsibility of the appropriate regulatory bodies that set standards for health and social care education and training to determine how much knowledge registrants require of specific health and social care issues such as nutrition and malnutrition. My hon. Friend may find it helpful to contact the regulatory bodies direct to obtain this information in respect to those health and social care professions about which he is interested.

Older People

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to establish a central information source about care for older people, as recommended in the Office of Fair Trading report, Care homes for older people in the UK. [5597]

Mr. Byrne: The Office of Fair Trading published a report on care homes for older people on 18 May 2005. The report made a number of recommendations to the Government, which they are currently considering.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of people over 75 years taking four or more medicines have their medicines reviewed at least every six months; [6663]

(2) what percentage of people over 75 years have their medicines reviewed at least annually. [6664]

Mr. Byrne: The Department do not collect centrally the data requested.

The national medicines management collaborative use medication reviews as measures for assessing improvements in patient care. They have monitored medication reviews for older people undertaken through general practitioner surgeries and also within care homes. Historic data for both measures, collected from the 146 primary care trusts taking part in the programme, suggest that there have been significant and sustained improvements in the number and quality of medication reviews.

Outpatient Appointments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many outpatient appointments were missed *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each NHS trust in the most recent year for which figures are available; how many appointments with a general practitioner were missed (i) in England and (ii) in each primary care trust in the most recent year for which figures are available; what proportion of the total number of appointments this represented in each case; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the NHS of such missed appointments. [3441]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of missed outpatient appointments for the year 2004-05 in England was 5,707,288, or 11.3 per cent. Data for individual trusts are available in the Library.

The Department has not made an estimate of the cost of such missed appointments. However, the new choose and book system, which is being implemented across the national health service will help give patients greater certainty and choice over the time and date of their hospital appointment and will help to reduce the number and cost of missed appointments.

The Department does not collect data on the number of missed general practice appointments, but there is some evidence to suggest the number of missed appointments are falling.

PBDE

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce exposure to the brominated flame retardant PBDE; and if she will make a statement on levels of this chemical in the bloodstream. [7042]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 27 June 2005]*: The brominated flame retardant Pentabromodiphenyl ether (PBDE) has been banned in the European Union since 15 August 2004 under the EU's marketing and use directive for all uses, except for a temporary derogation until March 2006 for its use in aircraft emergency evacuation slides. This ban is implemented in Great Britain by Statutory Instrument 2004/3278 and in Northern Ireland by SI 2004/509.

The Health Protection Agency is developing a programme of biomonitoring research on persistent organic chemicals.

Plano Lenses

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will provide support to individuals with reading difficulties who could benefit from using plano lenses; and if she will make a statement. [6107]

Mr. Byrne: Plano tinted lenses may be prescribed by the hospital eye service for patients who have a recognised clinical need for them.

Although there are indications that some children and adults with reading difficulties may benefit from tinted lenses, these need to be provided as part of a proper scheme of assessment and treatment or many people could receive them unnecessarily.

National health service help through optical vouchers is for people who, following a sight test, have been given a prescription to correct a defect of sight. Parents of children with reading difficulties are encouraged to have their sight tested by an optometrist to check that there are no refractive problems or eye disease which may be contributing to the difficulties. The NHS provides children under 16 with free sight tests at community opticians' premises.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make plano lenses available to those with multiple sclerosis; and if she will make a statement. [6108]

Mr. Byrne: Plano tinted lenses may be prescribed by the hospital eye service for patients who have a recognised clinical need for them. These lenses could be prescribed to help someone with multiple sclerosis, if this was felt to be necessary.

Primary Care

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by how much she expects Milton Keynes primary care trust to overspend in the 2005–06 financial year. [7225]

Caroline Flint: The financial plans for 2005–06 have not yet been finalised, but national health service organisations are expected to plan to live within their revenue resource, capital resource and cash limits each and every year.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (Stanmore)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the plans to redevelop the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore. [5835]

Jane Kennedy: The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital National Health Service Trust is currently progressing their proposals to redevelop the hospital. The £121 million scheme is a single-phase development of modern, purpose built, facilities linked to the provision of a new clinical service model, involving the re-provision of buildings that are more than 60 years old. The scheme will provide:

A modern, patient-focused environment for the continued delivery of clinical services.

Educational and research excellence and a secure future for an NHS centre of excellence, working in partnership with a top performing university.

A protected elective facility, designed to meet the needs of neuro-musculoskeletal patients, and focused on continued throughput of non-emergency cases.

The scheme will also release surplus land for housing and re-investment of the proceeds into health services.

It is anticipated that the outline business case will be considered by the North Central London Strategic Health Authority in September this year.

Schizophrenia

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* 50 to 64-year-olds, *(b)* 65 to 74-year-olds and *(c)* over 75-year-olds were diagnosed with schizophrenia in each of the last five years. [6657]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available in the requested format. Information on the number of live discharges with a primary psychiatric diagnosis of schizophrenia of people aged 50 to 64 years, 65 to 74 years and over 75 years at the end of episode in each of the last five years is shown in the table.

Live discharges with a primary psychiatric diagnosis of schizophrenia (ICD-10[1]), England, by age at end of episode, 1999–2000 to 2003–04[2]

[1] Diagnoses are made using chapter five (mental and behavioural disorders) of the 10th revision of the international classification of diseases (ICD-10). The relevant codes used here are F20 to F29: schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders.

[2] Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2002–03, and 2003–04, which are not adjusted for shortfalls.

	Age at end of episode			
	50 to 64 years	*65 to 74 years*	*75 years and over*	*All live discharges*
2003–04[1]	5,330	1,860	1,510	32,540
2002–03[1]	5,420	1,940	1,600	33,260
2001–02	5,470	1,940	1,620	32,800
2000–01	5,270	1,990	1,580	32,700
1999–2000	5,400	2,160	1,700	34,120

[1] Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2002–03 and 2003–04, which are not adjusted for shortfalls.

Note:

Disclosure rules apply due to the sensitive nature of the data; therefore, figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Drug Use)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on whether there is a link between the use of illegal substances and the spread of sexually transmitted infections and diseases; [5847]

(2) what measures are in place to warn recreational drug users of the dangers of contracting sexually transmitted diseases while under the influence of substances. [5849]

Caroline Flint: The Department keeps all of its sexual health promotion work under review, taking account of emerging research evidence to ensure the effectiveness of health promotion messages, using the best means to reach our target audience.

The Department commissioned the national addiction centre to review the evidence of harms associated with drugs of abuse and to summarise this in the Department's publication, "Dangerousness of drugs", which was published in September 2003.

This reports that a number of illicit drugs are associated with disinhibition and unsafe sexual practices including amyl nitrite and other nitrites, amphetamine type stimulants and novel synthetic drugs, such as MDMA/Ecstasy or GHB, opiates, benzodiazepines, volatile solvents, and that there is a possibility of high risk sexual behaviour in cocaine use.

The Department is currently developing its major new media campaign to promote safer sex, and this will be firmly based on the evidence base. Primary care trusts are responsible for undertaking sexual health promotion which meets the needs of their local populations and the Department supports them in this work by publishing best practice guidance on sexual health promotion, which includes work with drug users, and commissioning services.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which areas of funding South Tees Hospitals

NHS Trust is expected to reduce over the next three years; and what changes in staffing levels she expects as a result; [6683]

(2) if she will ensure *(a)* that the Friarage hospital in Northallerton is not closed and *(b)* that the accident and emergency ward at the Friarage hospital in Northallerton is not (i) reduced in size and (ii) closed as a result of the funding settlement for South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust over the next three years; [6684]

(3) what measures she has put in place to ensure that reductions in funding by South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust do not impact negatively on the standard of care provided to the people of North Yorkshire. [6685]

Mr. Byrne: The South Tees Hospitals National Health Service Trust savings plan for 2005–06 was made public at a board meeting on 7 June 2005. The trust is conducting a major review of the costs of all its services to see where efficiencies can be achieved. Any proposals will be subject to full consultation. Of course, throughout this time patient care and safety remains paramount.

Both the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust and Hambleton and Richmondshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) are committed to securing the Friarage hospital's services for the future.

Professor Ara Darzi's report on the Tees services review and its implications for the wider health economy, including the Friarage hospital, is due to be published shortly.

Stem Cell Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial commitment her Department plans to make to stem cell research in each year from 2005 to 2008. [6633]

Jane Kennedy: The Department funds stem cell research through allocations made annually to national health service providers for research and development to meet the priorities and needs of the NHS and to meet the costs to the NHS of hosting research supported by external funders. The total amount allocated to NHS providers in 2005–06 for research and development is £500 million.

In the 2005 Budget, my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the launch of the United Kingdom stem cell initiative. This high-level review will report by the time of the 2005 pre-Budget report and inform future investment by the Department in stem cell research.

Thimerosal

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether thimerosal is used in vaccines in the NHS; and what assessment she has made of whether there are health risks associated with it. [5979]

Jane Kennedy: The only licensed vaccines currently in routine use in the United Kingdom which contain in their formulation thiomersal, also known as thimerosal, are some influenza and some hepatitis A and B vaccines.

As with all medicinal products, vaccine safety is continually monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) with advice from the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM). The CSM and/or its expert working group on vaccine safety have thoroughly reviewed the safety of thiomersal-containing vaccines, including alleged links with neurodevelopmental disorders, and keep this under close review.

Several large studies have found no evidence of a link between thiomersal-containing vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders. The advice of CSM remains that there is no evidence of harm from the very small quantities of thiomersal contained in some vaccines, with the exception of possible allergic reactions, typically skin rashes or local swelling at the site of injection. This view concurs with that of the World Health Organisation, the United States Institute of Medicine and the European Medicines Agency (EMEA).

Treatment Overseas (E111 Form)

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures the Government have taken to alert British citizens to the fact that E111 forms issued before August 2004 have been invalid since 31 December 2004; how much has been spent on *(a)* television advertising, *(b)* radio advertising, *(c)* newspaper advertising, *(d)* leaflets, *(e)* campaigns involving airlines and *(f)* other campaigns; and if she will make a statement. [2357]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A marketing campaign to inform the public about the changes to the E111 arrangements and the forthcoming introduction of the European Health Insurance Card is under way. This includes public information films and messages on television and radio using free airtime, press advertising, leaflets and other activities. Costs to date are:

	£
Television advertising	113,288
Radio advertising	19,897
Press advertising	677,836
Leaflets	280,411
Other activities	143,437

Tuberculosis

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each region in each year since 1997. [6567]

Caroline Flint: The number of notifications of tuberculosis made to the Health Protection Agency by region since 1997 are shown in the table.

Tuberculosis notifications by region, England, 1997–2004

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]
East Midlands	384	428	442	440	464	502	337	423
East of England	232	268	228	254	326	333	341	417
London	2,411	2,444	2,493	2,834	2,886	2,839	2,745	2,569
North East	178	167	149	143	194	161	154	173
North West	631	690	720	671	672	636	610	636
South East	425	437	418	487	528	590	601	609
South West	212	213	209	226	198	239	226	267
West Midlands	610	673	712	723	692	789	797	870
Yorkshire and the Humber	581	595	567	601	611	538	572	616
Total	5,664	5,915	5,938	6,379	6,571	6,627	6,383	6,580

[1] Provisional figures.
Source:
Statutory notifications of infectious diseases.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have received *(a)* BCG immunisations and *(b)* related skin tests in each of the last 24 months. [6568]

Caroline Flint: The number of people who have received bacillus calmette-guerin (BCG) vaccination and related skin tests are published annually in the Department's statistical bulletin, "NHS Immunisation Statistics, England".

The number of BCG vaccinations and skin tests given in 2002–03 can be found in "NHS Immunisation Statistics, England: 2002–03". Copies are available in the Library, and on the Department's website at: www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0316.htm.

The number of BCG vaccinations and skin tests given in 2003–04 can be found in "NHS Immunisation Statistics, England: 2003–04". Copies are available in the Library, and on the Department's website at: www.publications.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0416.htm.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the availability is of *(a)* magnetic Heaf heads and *(b)* purified protein derivative solution required to carry out skin tests prior to BCG vaccinations; and if she will make a statement. [6569]

Caroline Flint: Due to manufacturing constraints adult and paediatric heaf test heads are available on a limited basis.

Mantoux strength purified protein derivative for skin testing prior to receiving bacillus calmette-guerin (BCG) vaccination is available.

Vacancies (Accident and Emergency)

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff vacancies there are in Accident and Emergency departments in each NHS trust; and what percentage of the complement this represents in each case. [6284]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Work Placements

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to make payments to students while on work placements within the NHS. [7516]

Mr. Byrne: A national health service bursary is provided for students on NHS funded courses. The bursary covers the living costs and provides other allowances for students during their course, which includes periods on clinical placement.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 29 June 2005

PRIME MINISTER

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Prime Minister how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Office in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4112]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster today.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Consultants

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7019]

Mr. Lammy: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to her on 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

Libraries (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many books were borrowed from libraries in each London borough in each year since 1997. [7475]

Mr. Lammy: The aggregate number of books issued by library authorities across inner and outer London for each year between 1997–98 and 2003–04 is shown in the following table. These figures are drawn from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's annual Public Library Statistics (Actuals) which also contain figures for individual library authorities. Copies are available in the House of Commons Library.

Thousand

	Number of books issued
1997–98	55,246
1998–99	52,667
1999–2000	48,142
2000–01	45,771
2001–02	42,626
2002–03	41,727
2003–04	39,774

National Lottery

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on differences in amounts received by constituencies from grants to good causes from the national lottery. [8073]

Mr. Caborn: Policy directions issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport state that lottery funding must be accessible to all sections of the population and all areas of the country (especially those at risk of social exclusion).

Ensuring equality of access does not, however, mean that every constituency will receive exactly the same amount. And nor should it. The distribution of national lottery funds was always intended to respond to particular needs and to ensure that areas of significant disadvantage are first to benefit.

Women's Football

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to promote women's football in England. [8378]

Mr. Caborn: The Government have sought to help promote the women's game by working closely with the football authorities and other sporting organisations to raise its profile in this country.

Sport England on behalf of the Government funds the Football Foundation which invests in a wide range of projects that benefit women's football. Sport England has also directly funded girls' football in recent years through the Active Sports programme which has contributed to the 53 per cent. increase in the number of girls playing the game since 2001.

The Government place much importance on women's football and football in general. The sport is a key deliverer of our aims to increase participation in sport, improve social inclusion, community cohesion and the health of the nation.

Work-related Stress

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in her Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [7858]

Mr. Caborn: The Department records the number of stress related absences, but the records do not distinguish between stress and work-related stress. The number of stress related cases identified for the last three years are as follows:

	Number of cases	*Days lost*
2002–03	9	712
2003–04	6	251
2004–05	[1]—	176

[1] This information has been suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

DCMS has a legal obligation to provide a safe working environment for all employees and guidance is available for staff and managers on how to manage stress effectively.

No compensation has been paid to employees for any stress related cases in the last three years.

As part of our larger managing attendance, health and welfare programme for staff we have a range of policies and procedures in places to reduce work-related stress.

These include: Stress Management policy: Sickness Absence policy, which includes guidance on making reasonable adjustments; full range of flexible work patterns to support work-life balance; dedicated stress management channel on DCMS Intranet; health awareness pages on Intranet; access to welfare services, onsite gym and yoga classes.

The Department does not hold details of costs for absences resulting from work-related stress or procedures put in place to tackle it.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the welfare conditions of animals used in circuses; and if she will make a statement; [7035]

(2) what plans she has to bring the welfare standards for circus animals up to the same standard as for animals kept in zoos; and if she will make a statement. [7036]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are aware of anecdotal evidence that there are certain welfare problems associated with circuses. The Government's preliminary conclusion is that any such problems can be addressed through better regulation.

Proposals under the Animal Welfare Bill will improve significantly the welfare of animals in circuses. The Bill will introduce a 'duty of care' requiring that the owner or keeper of an animal takes reasonable steps to ensure its welfare and enables action to be taken before any suffering occurs. This will strengthen protection for circus animals.

It is also our intention, through secondary legislation under the Bill, to regulate all trainers of performing animals. No decisions have been taken as to what form the regulation will take but any proposals will be subject to public consultation.

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the legislative position in other European countries in respect of the use of wild animals in circuses; and if she will make a statement. [7448]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is aware that animal welfare laws, including those relating to circuses, vary across Europe.

Badger Deaths (Surrey)

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish statistics on roadside badger deaths in Surrey; and if she will make a statement. [7360]

Mr. Bradshaw: As Surrey is not one of the seven counties in which DEFRA is conducting its Road Traffic Accident survey, we do not have data on the numbers of badgers killed on Surrey roads.

Energy Technology List (Kilns)

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to include kilns on the Energy Technology List of the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [7395]

Mr. Morley: The Carbon Trust is responsible for providing the Government with technical advice on technologies for the Energy Technology List (ETL). Each proposal for a new technology group is considered and prioritised based on the potential to save carbon dioxide emissions and ease of incorporation within the scheme. To date we have not received any detailed or quantitative proposals to include kilns on the ETL from the relevant industry representatives and our own market assessment indicates that kilns offer relatively low EGA accessible abatement potential compared to other technologies not yet listed. Therefore we have no plans to undertake a detailed evaluation of kilns for the ETL at the moment.

Environment Agency Helpline

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many calls the Environment Agency emergency helpline received in each year since 1997, broken down by the type of problem being reported. [7152]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency does not record the number of calls to the incident hotline, or keep a central log of those calls by subject. Preparing the information from the manually completed record sheets would could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The following schedule shows an approximation of the number of calls received, based on information supplied by BT concerning the total duration of all calls

to the hotline, divided by an average duration calculated using figures for April 2005. Unfortunately this information is only available since June 2002.

	Number of calls
2002 (June to December)	66,322
2003	136,785
2004	163,696
2005 (January to May)	76,417

Flood Defences

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much is budgeted for expenditure on flood defences in the East Riding of Yorkshire in the next five years; and to which projects funding will be allocated. [6547]

Mr. Morley: DEFRA funds most of the Environment Agency's flood management activities in England and provides grant aid on a project by project basis to the other operating authorities (local authorities and internal drainage boards) to support their investment in improvement projects to manage flood and coastal erosion risk. Defra does not build defences, nor direct the authorities on which specific projects to undertake.

I understand from the Environment Agency that their budget for expenditure on flood risk management in East Riding of Yorkshire over the next five years is approximately £41 million (at September 2004 prices). This is made up as follows:

Activity/Project	*Forecast expenditure (£000)*
Ongoing capital investment	
Tickton refurbishment	300
Number Estuary Coastal Authorities Group SMP Review	80
Number Monitoring 2	570
Number Estuary Shoreline Management Plan 3	260
Number Land Purchase	3,760
East Clough-Brough Haven	3,130
Little Humber-Thorngumbald	240
Reedness Slips at Reedness	1,200
Goole Slips-River Ouse (Hook Road)	850
Saltmarshe Embankment 2	400
Bank House Slips/Saltmarshe	800
Airmyn and Rawcliffe	2,000
Burstwick Drain	630
Total	14,220
Capital projects resulting from number strategy	
Paull Village	3,300
BAe to East Clough	2,900
Old Goole	500
Swinefleet	5,800
Erosion Control (Stoning)	2,100
Monitoring and maintenance	1,100
Further studies	1,700
Contingency for urgent work	2,100
Total	19,500
Asset improvements	1,090
Routine maintenance	2,800
COW expenditure	1,135
Support costs	2,325
Grand total	41,070

For local authorities and internal drainage boards, the forward programme is not budgeted at regional level. DEFRA does however hold forecasts of expenditure of individual approved flood risk management improvement projects covering the period from April 2005 to March 2008. These forecasts total approximately £1 million and are made up as follows:

Authority	*Project name*	*Forecast expenditure (£000)*
Cowick IDB	Cowick IDB First Five Year Strategy	94
Goole and Airmyn IDB	Hook Clough Pumping Station	150
Goole and Airmyn IDB	Downs Ground Pumping Station	235
Goole and Airmyn IDB	Downs Ground Pumping Station Refurbishment	300
Market Weighton IDB	Oxmardyke Pumping Station	70
Market Weighton IDB	Foss Dyke and Tributaries	2
Rawcliffe IDB	Rawcliffe First Five Year Strategy	187
Total		1,038

In addition to this list of approved projects for local authorities and internal drainage boards, there are also a number of planned improvement projects that meet the current priority score thresholds but which have not yet been approved for grant aid by the Department.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on progress with the Silkstream Flood Defence scheme, Edgware. [7053]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency is promoting this flood alleviation project. I understand that two of the six flood storage areas have been constructed, these being Temple Pond and Prince Edward Playing Fields (Harrow). Construction work is programmed to commence in autumn 2005 for Summerhouse Lake and Stoneywood Lake. Design and land negotiations for the final two sites, Edgwarebury Park and Bury Farm, are being progressed and underpinned by a Compulsory Purchase Order procedure.

The completion of all flood storage areas is still on target for year 2007, subject to securing the necessary funding and successful negotiations with landowners.

Energy-efficient Housing

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households have been assisted by the Home Energy Efficiency and Warm Front schemes in the borough of Dartford in each year since June 2000; and what the average size of grant was in each financial year. [7904]

Mr. Morley: Between the launch of the Warm Front Scheme in June 2000 and the end of the March 2005 the number of households assisted in the borough of Dartford were:

	Number
2000–01	101
2001–02	298
2002–03	210
2003–04	157
2004–05	198
Total	964

The average size of grant in each financial year for the Dartford constituency was:

Scheme year	*Average grant*
2000–01	290
2001–02	324
2002–03	596
2003–04	1,019
2004–05	1,030

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken towards implementing the requirements of section 217 of the Housing Act 2004. [7953]

Mr. Morley: We are working across Government and with key stakeholders to implement the policies detailed in our 2004 Energy Efficiency Action Plan, which will lead to economy-wide annual savings of 12.1 million tonnes of carbon by 2010. We are looking at ways to further strengthen our energy efficiency policies through the joint HM Treasury/Defra Energy Efficiency Innovation Review and the Climate Change Programme Review, due to conclude later this year.

Sewerage and Water Bills

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average water sewerage bills are as a proportion of average income in each region. [6293]

Mr. Morley: Information on water and sewerage bills is not available by economic region. The attached table sets out the average water and sewerage bill as a proportion of average household income in each water and sewerage company area.

2005–06

Regionally	*Bill as a proportion of average income (percentage)*
Anglian	1.2
Dwr Cymru	1.5
Northumbria	1.2
Severn Trent	1.1
South West	1.8
Southern	1.1
Thames	0.8
United Utilities	1.2
Wessex	1.2
Yorkshire	1.2
Wocs	1.0
Industry average	1.0

Timber

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential for the recovery of construction and demolition timber as a renewable energy source. [7282]

Mr. Morley: Information is not available on the amount of construction and timber waste produced each year. Current estimates for all types of wood waste vary from 1.9 to 7.5 million tonnes per annum. This includes municipal, commercial and industrial waste as well as that from construction and demolition. A significant proportion currently goes to landfill, which could be used instead as a valuable energy source. As part of the current review of the renewables obligation, the Government has just consulted on options for incentivising a broader range of mixed waste energy projects. The Biomass Study Task Force, led by Sir Ben Gill, is looking at the barriers to developing biomass energy and will recommend ways to overcome the problems. The use of wood waste as an energy source is one of the areas they are looking at and we will consider the way forward in the light of their recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aid Conditionality

6. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps have been taken to reduce the conditionality of overseas aid; and if he will make a statement. [7786]

Hilary Benn: The UK Conditionality Policy which I launched in March this year aims to reduce the overall burden of conditionality on developing countries. UK aid will be subject to only three fundamental conditions, which ensure that aid is used to reduce poverty, is not misused through corruption and supports good governance and human rights. We will no longer make UK aid conditional on specific policy choices by partner governments—including in sensitive economic areas such as privatisation or trade liberalisation.

11. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to encourage bilateral and multilateral donors to adopt the UK's policy of not placing economic conditions on the aid, loans and debt relief given to developing countries. [7791]

Hilary Benn: I published a UK policy paper on conditionally in March 2005. Increased transparency about DFID's approach to conditionally and about the conditions that we use will help us to achieve change in other organisations. Last year, I pressed the World

Bank to carry out a review of its conditionality. The review will be finalised before the Annual Meetings in September 2005. We have had good discussions with our Nordic Plus partners who are in broad agreement with the principles set out on our policy paper. At country level, when working with other donors, we will encourage others to adopt the approach and principles laid out in our conditionality policy.

HIV/AIDS (Africa)

7. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with Ministers in recipient countries in relation to HIV/AIDS aid in sub-Saharan Africa. [7787]

Hilary Benn: Over the past few months my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I have met with Ministers and others in a number of African countries to discuss ways of doing more to fight HIV and AIDS prevention, provide better treatment and care, improve and encourage research into protective microbicides and vaccines.

Debt Relief

8. **Mr. McFall:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures he plans to put in place to ensure that heavily indebted poor countries receiving debt relief do not incur heavy debts in future. [7788]

Hilary Benn: Heavily indebted poor countries that have demonstrated a commitment to poverty reduction are receiving substantial debt relief, and would receive more under the G8 proposal agreed recently.

It is essential that these countries do not build up unsustainable debts again. We have therefore agreed a new arrangement—the Debt Sustainability Framework—to determine whether new assistance should be in the form of loans or grants. We will discuss with partners whether the framework should be adjusted in light of the multilateral relief proposed by the G8.

We are also providing assistance directly to countries to strengthen their debt management capacity.

10. **Sir George Young:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that funds released by debt relief are used to reduce poverty. [7790]

Hilary Benn: Debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, as well as proposed in the recent G8 deal, will go only to countries that have demonstrated their commitment to poverty reduction and good public expenditure management.

On average, 65 per cent. of the savings from HIPC debt relief are used on health and education. There are already many excellent examples of the difference this debt relief can make—after receiving HIPC debt relief in 2001 Ghana has increased spending on reducing poverty by almost 50 per cent. In Uganda, debt relief has seen spent on reducing poverty rise by 75 per cent. since 2000, and access to health services and immunisation rates have almost doubled.

Zimbabwe

9. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist people in Zimbabwe's urban areas. [7789]

Hilary Benn: It is estimated that 66,000 households (approaching 330,000 people) have been affected by the callous destruction of people's homes and livelihoods by the government of Zimbabwe. DFID have responded to this man-made disaster by providing US$450,000 so far in humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable. A further contribution is imminent. To date nearly 10,000 families have been reached with food, blankets, soap and other forms of assistance. Where appropriate emergency water and sanitation facilities have been provided. We will continue to press the Government of Zimbabwe to respect human rights and to put a stop to these cruel evictions and arrests.

Palestinian Territories

12. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid programmes his Department has in the Palestinian territories. [7792]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development is working with partners to help end conflict and create a viable Palestinian state that will reduce poverty. The central themes of our programme are to enhance the prospects for peace, promote effective and accountable Palestinian institutions and make international aid and development assistance more effective. We plan to spend £30 million in bilateral aid during 2005–06. Half of our funding will help the United Nations Relief and Works Agency deliver education, health and social services to Palestinian refugees. We will also continue to provide budget support to the Palestinian Authority.

Iraq

13. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Department is providing to Iraq in 2005–06. [7793]

Hilary Benn: DFID plans to provide £65 million in assistance to Iraq in 2005–06. Our programme is focused on improving infrastructure, including power and water supplies in southern Iraq, and support for public administration, economic reform and participation in the political process in Iraq.

Full details of DFID's programme of assistance in Iraq since April 2003 can be found on the Departments website at www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/iraq.asp

User Fees (Education)

14. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that user fees for education are abolished in all countries not on track to meet the millennium development goals. [7794]

Mr. Thomas: DFID supports governments to develop education policies that reduce the financial burden of education for poor families. In Kenya, the recent removal of user fees resulted in over 1 million extra

children going to school. We will continue to support countries not on track to meet the education Millennium Development Goals in their efforts to remove user fees for basic education. Over the next three years, DFID plans to spend £1.4 billion supporting education in developing countries. Removing school fees must be part of a plan to ensure the quality of primary education for children is improved.

Asian Tsunami

15. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on reconstruction in the tsunami-affected regions. [7795]

Mr. Thomas: Following a successful humanitarian relief effort, reconstruction after the Asian Tsunami will take several years. Progress is now being made.

In Sri Lanka, 30,000 transitional homes replacing temporary shelters have been constructed so far. Of 182 schools damaged, contracts have been signed to rebuild 176; and roads, railways and electricity supplies have been restored. The recently agreed Joint Mechanism between the Government, the LTTE and Muslims will aid reconstruction in the North East.

Indonesia is still essentially in the relief phase but reconstruction is now beginning through the Aceh Reconstruction Agency. I announced during my recent visit £30 million to be made available to the Indonesian Multi Donor Trust Fund from the £65 million for reconstruction.

Fossil Fuels (International Funding)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been invested in *(a)* fossil fuel projects and *(b)* renewable energy projects by the (i) World Bank Group, (ii) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, (iii) European Investment Bank, (iv) Asian Development Bank, (v) African Development Bank and (vi) Inter American Development Bank in each of the last five years. [6837]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The following summary table details investment in fossil fuel and renewable energy projects across the major multilateral development banks in the last five years.

Multilateral development bank renewable energy and fossil fuel investments: financial year 2000–04

US$ million

Sub-sector	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
World Bank Group					
Renewable energy	764	26	349	342	272
Coal (incl mine closure)	51	111	194	75	160
Oil and gas	490	592	601	448	415
Power	1,163	1,169	1,555	852.2	570.2
Other energy sub-sector	176	175	55	170	128
Total fossil fuel	1,880	2,047	2,405	1,545	1,273
Energy efficiency and district heating	254	189	37	68	48
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development					
Renewable energy	0	16	0	0	0
Coal (incl mine closure)	0	0	0	72	0
Oil and gas	142	27	153	35	124
Total fossil fuel	142	27	153	108	124
Energy efficiency and district heating	21	64	92	121	242

Multilateral development bank renewable energy and fossil fuel investments: financial year 2000–04

US$ million

Sub-sector	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
European Investment Bank					
Renewable energy	78	206	734	375	459
Coal (incl mine closure)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oil and gas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total fossil fuel	285	285	285	285	669
Energy efficiency and district heating	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Asian Development Bank					
Renewable energy	58	6	161	0	0
Coal (incl mine closure)	0	0	0	0	187
Oil and gas	0	0	73	0	0
Total fossil fuel	0	0	73	0	187
Energy efficiency and district heating	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
African Development Bank					
Renewable energy	102	79	2	0	0
Coal (incl mine closure)	0	0	0	0	0
Oil and gas	0	0	115	82	0
Total fossil fuel	0	0	115	82	0
Energy efficiency and district heating	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Inter-American Development Bank					
Renewable energy	338	186	3	14	75
Coal (incl mine closure)	0	0	0	0	0
Oil and gas	713	192	0	0	0
Total fossil fuel	713	192	0	0	0
Energy efficiency and district heating	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:

1. Figures shown are commitment amounts and not disbursements.
2. Renewable energy is generally defined as hydropower, wind, solar, geothermal and biomass projects.
3. Sub-sector project definitions may vary across institutions and are not directly comparable.
4. Although projects are in fossil fuel sector, this does not necessarily imply a net increase in fossil fuel use. More efficient fossil fuel investments will displace other inefficient fuel or production methods.
5. Coal projects include costs to close mines in an environmental and socially acceptable manner.
6. Figures excludes sole technical assistance projects although technical assistance is a component of loans described.
7. Figures exclude projects solely to support power transmission and distribution.
8. World Bank renewable energy projects include IBRD/IDA/IFC commitments, MIGA guarantees, Bank GEF projects and IBRD carbon finance.
9. EIB investments are for EU members, and also two projects in Swaziland and Morocco.
10. ADB, AfDB, EIB and IDB energy efficiency project information not shown in table.
11. The energy efficiency component of EBRD industrial projects was not recorded before 2002.
12. EBRD and EIB lending figures converted to US$ at $ per Euro 1.205.
13. AfDB figures converted from Unit of Account to US$ at $ per UA 1.4752.
14. IDB loans include loan amounts placed by IDB Private Sector Department with other lenders.
15. IDB renewable energy includes investment in cogeneration facilities.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Domestic Violence

Vera Baird: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for domestic violence in the jurisdiction of the Teesside combined courts have *(a)* come to court and *(b)* resulted in conviction in the last 12 months. [7685]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records are held according to the CPS unit responsible for proceedings, rather than the court in which the case was heard.

The following table shows the number and outcome of proceedings for domestic violence handled by the Teesside Criminal Justice Unit and the Trials Unit in magistrates courts during the year ending March 2005. During this period, 152 defendants were convicted for domestic violence in the magistrates courts, representing 54.7 per cent. of the total proceeded against. Proceedings in respect of 10 defendants were dismissed after a full trial. All of these prosecutions may be regarded as having come to court. Proceedings in respect of a further 114 defendants were discontinued, while bench warrants for the arrest of two more defendants remained outstanding. These cases may be regarded as not having come to court.

Prosecutions in Teesside Crown court are handled by three CPS units: Durham Trials Unit, Teesside Trials Unit and York Trials Unit. However, CPS units are also responsible for prosecutions in other Crown courts, and it is not possible to disaggregate figures to isolate those relating to Teesside Crown court alone.

A further table shows the number of defendants proceeded against for domestic violence in the crown court by each of the relevant CPS units during the year ending March 2005, and the outcome of the proceedings. The table also shows the proportion of cases resulting in an unsuccessful outcome and in a conviction. In total, 100 defendants were convicted for domestic violence: (73.5 per cent. of the total proceeded against).

All of the Crown court cases shown in the following tables may be regarded as having come to court, with the exception of the one case which could not proceed owing to the death of the defendant.

CPS proceedings for domestic violence in the Crown court 2004–05

	Durham Criminal Justice Unit/Trial Unit South	%	*Teesside Trial Unit*	%	*York Trial Unit*	%	*Total*	%
Defendant died	1	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7
Judge ordered acquittal	7	14.3	12	18.8	4	17.4	23	16.9
Judge directed acquittal	0	0.0	2	3.1	0	0.0	2	1.5
Jury acquittal	2	4.1	6	9.4	2	8.7	10	7.4
Total unsuccessful outcomes	10	20.4	20	31.3	6	26.1	36	26.5
Guilty plea	38	77.6	43	67.2	11	47.8	92	67.6
Guilty verdict	1	2.0	1	1.6	6	26.1	8	5.9
Total convictions	39	79.6	44	68.8	17	73.9	100	73.5
Total	49	100.0	64	100.0	23	100.0	136	100.0

CPS proceedings for domestic violence in magistrates courts Teesside: 2004–05

	Number	*Percentage*
Outstanding bench warrants	2	0.7
Discontinued	114	41.0
Dismissed after full trial	10	3.6
Total unsuccessful outcomes	126	45.3
Guilty plea	142	51.1
Guilty verdict	10	3.6
Total convictions	152	54.7
Total	278	100.0

Sexual Offences

Vera Baird: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for rape and sexual offences have *(a)* been brought to court and *(b)* resulted in conviction in the jurisdiction of the Teesside combined courts in the last 12 months. [7686]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records are held according to the CPS unit responsible for proceedings rather than the court in which the case was heard.

The following table shows the number and the outcome of proceedings for sexual offences handled by the Teesside Criminal Justice Unit and the Trials Unit in magistrates courts during the period from September 2004, when the present analysis was introduced, to March 2005. During this period, 26 defendants were convicted for sexual offences in magistrates courts, representing 78.8 per cent. of the total proceeded against. Proceedings were discontinued in respect of the remaining seven defendants, whose cases may be regarded as not having been brought to court.

Prosecutions in Teesside Crown court are handled by three CPS units: Durham Trials Unit, Teesside Trials Unit and York Trials Unit. However, these CPS units are also responsible for prosecutions in other crown courts, and it is not possible to disaggregate figures to isolate those relating to Teesside Crown court alone.

A further table shows the number of defendants proceeded against for sexual offences in the Crown court by each of the relevant CPS units. The table also shows the proportion of cases resulting in an unsuccessful outcome and in a conviction. In total, 72 defendants were convicted for sexual offences: (59.5 per cent. of the total proceeded against).

All of the cases shown in the tables for crown court proceedings may be regarded as having been brought to court, with the exception of two cases in which a bench warrant for the arrest of the defendant remained unexecuted.

While CPS records provide an analysis of the number and the outcome of proceedings for sexual offences, these figures cannot be further disaggregated to show the outcome of proceedings for rape.

Information from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database shows that in 2003, in the Teesside Crown Court, 28 defendants were proceeded against for rape of a male and rape of a female, of which nine were found guilty. Data for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

CPS proceedings for sexual offences in the Crown court—September 2004-March 2005

	Durham Criminal Justice Unit/Trial Unit South	%	Teesside Trial Unit	%	York Trial Unit	%	Total	%
Outstanding bench warrants	0	0.0	1	1.9	1	2.4	2	1.7
Judge ordered acquittal	3	11.1	9	17.3	6	14.3	18	14.9
Judge directed acquittal	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.8	2	1.7
Jury acquittal	5	18.5	15	28.8	7	16.7	27	22.3
Total unsuccessful outcomes	8	29.6	25	48.1	16	38.1	49	40.5
Guilty plea	14	51.9	23	44.2	19	45.2	56	46.3
Guilty verdict	5	18.5	4	7.7	7	16.7	16	13.2
Total convictions	19	70.4	27	51.9	26	61.9	72	59.5
Total	27	100.0	52	100.0	42	100.0	121	100.0

CPS proceedings for sexual offences in magistrates courts Teesside: September 2004-March 2005

	Number	Percentage
Discontinued	7	21.2
Total unsuccessful outcomes	7	21.2
Proved in absence	1	3.0
Guilty plea	24	72.7
Guilty verdict	1	3.0
Total convictions	26	78.8
Total	33	100.0

TREASURY

Council Tax

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful appeals against council tax banding have been received in each year since 1997; and how many properties were moved down (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three or more bands following successful appeals. [7151]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows:

Appeals settled in each year for England since 1999–2000[1]

	Unsuccessful	Successful
1999–2000	19,580	26,036
2000–01	14,252	22,205
2001–02	12,808	17,906
2002–03	11,998	17,992
2003–04	12,356	15,364
2004–05	12,350	15,753

[1] The first year this information is available in this form.

Information on specific levels of banding changes relating to these appeals is not currently available.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost of an appeal against council tax banding has been in each year since 1997. [7172]

Dawn Primarolo: The average costs of an appeal against council tax banding from 2001–02—the first year for which information is available—are:

	£
2001–02	280
2002–03	280
2003–04	300
2004–05	320

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff *(a)* are, *(b)* have been and *(c)* will be (i) employed and (ii) contracted out by the Valuation Office Agency to carry out the council tax revaluation process. [7210]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of staff employed by the Valuation Office Agency for the council tax revaluation process for England is:

(a) 2005–06: 1, 610

(b) 2004–05: 729

(c) 2006–07: 1,419

(ii) There are no current plans to contract out work from the Valuation Office Agency.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the sources are of the house sales price data the Valuation Office Agency is using for computer modelling as part of the council tax revaluation process. [7586]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency has access to property transaction information from the Stamp Taxes Office of HM Revenue and Customs and from HM Land Registry.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of dwellings will be assessed by the Valuation Office Agency using the automated valuation model during the council tax revaluation in England. [7587]

Dawn Primarolo: The Automated Valuation Model will be used to support the revaluation of the majority of properties within England. Valuation Office Agency staff will use their expertise to review all the outputs.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the specification and technical documentation relating to the automated valuation model used by the Valuation Office Agency for the council tax revaluation. [7590]

Dawn Primarolo: The Automated Valuation Model (AVM) is still under development, and so its specification and associated technical documentation is not yet finalised. The Valuation Office Agency will however publish information on this in due course.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the number of appeals which are likely to be made following the council tax revaluation in England. [7711]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of appeals which may be received following a revaluation are dependent upon a number of issues, which include the characteristics of the banding scheme, the extent of information provided to individual taxpayers about how their assessment has been arrived at, and also the level of payments to be made including whether any transitional relief scheme will apply. A number of these issues are currently under consideration by the Inquiry being undertaken by Sir Michael Lyons which is due to report in December 2005. It is therefore too speculative to provide estimates of appeal rates at this stage.

Faith Communities

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent consultations have been carried out by his Department with representatives of faith communities; and if he will make a statement. [3231]

John Healey: Comprehensive information relating to consultations with representatives of faith communities is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Treasury Ministers are concerned to ensure that the views of all sectors of society, including faith communities, are taken fully into account in the process of policy development and analysis. Recent examples of active engagement with faith groups include the tax treatment of Islamic (Shari'a compliant) financial products and the refund of VAT on repairs to listed places of worship.

Flight Charges (African Development)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions EU finance ministers have had on introducing additional charges on domestic and international flights to fund international development in Africa; what the UK's position is; and if he will make a statement. [5143]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* EU finance minister discussions on innovative mechanisms for financing development, including the IFF, the IFF for Immunisation, and an air ticket levy that could support specific development projects and refinance the IFF, are on-going.

The 16–17 June European Council invited "the Council to pursue its consideration of the most promising options for innovative sources of funding for development, so as to increase the resources available in a sustainable and predictable manner."

Gershon Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* value for money savings consequent on the Gershon review, *(b)* procurement savings and *(c)* reduction in civil service posts each Department is expected to make in the fiscal year 2004–05; and if he will make a statement. [7710]

Mr. Des Browne: Efficiency targets were set out for each Department in the Spending Review 2004 White Paper. Progress was reported in Budget 2005 and Departments will report on further progress in their annual reports.

Home Owners

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 681W, on home ownership, what economic analysis was undertaken to underpin the target of one million more homeowners by 2010. [6429]

John Healey: The Government expect one million people to enter home-ownership over the next five years. This is based upon analysis of recent trends in house-building and new owner-occupiers. It also takes into account the impact that the domestic economic stability delivered by the Government's macroeconomic framework will have had on numbers entering into homeownership.

Insurance Fraud

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received regarding allegations of fraud by insurance companies using the insurance premium tax. [7964]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Treasury has received no representations regarding allegations of insurance premium tax (IPT) fraud by insurance companies in the past year. Some allegations of underpayment of IPT have been received regarding one particular business and these have been investigated by HM Revenue and Customs.

Mortgage Interest Tax Relief

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average tax deduction due to Mortgage Interest Tax Relief was in April 1997. [7433]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates can be made from data available on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/mir/mir_t03_1.htm

Property-based Loans

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contribution to the cost of participation in central Government schemes and services came from equity release or other property-based loans to service users in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* percentage terms in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of how this proportion will change over the next 10 years. [6583]

John Healey: The Treasury does not hold this data centrally.

Tax Avoidance Schemes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax avoidance schemes have been withdrawn or otherwise ceased to operate since legislation was brought into force requiring sellers to secure prior clearance from his Department; [7583]

(2) if he will bring forward legislation to require *(a)* providers and *(b)* purchasers of tax avoidance schemes to provide a complete inventory of their schemes to his Department. [7584]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to protect the tax system against tax avoidance when and where necessary, ensuring that all taxpayers pay their fair share, and protecting revenues for essential public services. The disclosure rules for direct tax and VAT are a success, informing a number of anti-avoidance measures in the summer Finance Bill.

However, the disclosure rules do not require promoters of schemes to notify HMRC if a tax avoidance scheme has been withdrawn or otherwise ceased, so this information is unavailable.

The Government continue to keep the disclosure rules under review, and will bring forward any further proposals at the appropriate time.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what action his Department has taken against PricewaterhouseCoopers for selling tax avoidance schemes; and if he will make a statement. [8128]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to protect the tax system against tax avoidance when and where necessary, ensuring that all taxpayers pay their fair share, and protecting revenues for essential public services. The Government introduced the disclosure rules for direct tax and VAT in 2004. The disclosure rules are a success, informing a number of anti-avoidance measures in the summer Finance Bill. Among other things, the direct tax rules require promoters to disclose to HMRC that they have made available a scheme or arrangement as defined in the rules. This legislation applies to PricewaterhouseCoopers as it does to any other promoter.

Tax Credit Fraud

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many prosecutions the Inland Revenue has brought for fraudulent tax credit claims in each year since 1997. [4377]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government introduced tax credits (working families tax credit, disabled person's tax credit and children's tax credit) in 1999. These were replaced in April 2003 by the new tax credits of working tax credit and child tax credit. There has been a steady increase in prosecutions brought by the Inland Revenue in each year since 1999 as shown in the table. A number of factors contribute to the significant increase in prosecutions:

As more people are eligible to benefit form the new generation of tax credits so there is more scope for fraudulent claims.

HMRC's tax fraud investigators have become increasingly proficient at discovering and preventing fraudulent tax credit claims.

There has been a lead in times from payments being issued, fraud identified and investigated to cases being taken through the court system.

Since the introduction of tax credits in 1999, the Inland Revenue (now HM Revenue and Customs) has prosecuted the following numbers of suspects.

	Number
1999–2000	0
2000–01	2
2001–02	28
2002–03	35
2003–04	59
2004–05	211

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff of the Valuation Office Agency will be employed for the purposes of the council tax revaluation in *(a)* 2005–06 and *(b)* 2006–07. [7435]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of full-time, equivalent staff, employed by the Valuation Office Agency for the council tax revaluation process in England is:

(a) 2005–06: 1,610

(b) 2006–07: 1,419.

Work-related Stress

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7874]

John Healey: The figures for reported cases of work-related stress in the department for the last three years are;

2002: 13 cases resulting in 467 workdays lost

2003: 22 cases resulting in 408 workdays lost

2004: 14 cases resulting in 139 workdays lost

There are no recorded cases of compensation being paid to employees for work-related stress.

A stress audit was carried out in the Treasury in 2000 at a cost of £20,000. To measure progress against the 2000 stress audit, a follow up well being survey was carried out in 2003 at a cost of £15,000. A staff group was set up to assess its recommendations and to take forward an action plan.

TRANSPORT

A39

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the funding of the new section of the A39 at Camelford; and if he will make a statement. [7921]

Dr. Ladyman: The A39 Camelford Distributor Road was provisionally approved by the Department in December 2000 at a cost of £6.8 million subject to the completion of the relevant statutory procedures and final approval by Ministers.

We are aware that costs for the scheme have increased significantly and are now estimated to be £14.4 million.

We therefore asked Cornwall county council to critically review the current benefit and cost assessment of this scheme in order to satisfy themselves that the scheme can be delivered to minimal additional cost and with a robust BCR. They are currently undertaking this work and future progress of the scheme will depend on the results of this assessment.

A49

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce road accidents on the A49 between Ludlow and Shrewsbury. [7925]

Dr. Ladyman: A number of initiatives have been taken to address safety on the A49 and a Route Management Strategy (RMS) was published in December 2004.

The Highways Agency has recently completed two schemes:

A roundabout junction improvement at Craven Arms

Traffic signal improvements and a vehicle activated speed limit sign at Church Stretton.

A further scheme has been proposed to install a pedestrian crossing facility on the Ludlow Bypass.

In addition, studies have been proposed for 2005–06. These include:

An accident analysis at the Stapleton Crossroads junction south of Shrewsbury and the A49/B4361 junction at the southern end of the Ludlow Bypass

A speed management strategy study for the route as a whole.

Air Services/Travel

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assistance the Government provide to regional airports to establish scheduled services. [7358]

Ms Buck: The Department for Transport does not directly provide any financial assistance to regional airports to establish regional air services. However, funding contributions can be made by the devolved Administrations and appropriate regional authorities in certain carefully defined circumstances, provided such funding complies with relevant EU state aid guidelines.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the environmental impact of increasing capacity for air travel. [7729]

Ms Buck: The Air Transport White Paper, published in December 2003, set out an approach, agreed across Government, which provides a strategic framework for development of airport capacity, supporting economic prosperity, while managing and mitigating the environmental impacts of aviation. The Department for Transport and DEFRA keep in regular contact on aviation and environment issues.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of how many extra aircraft *(a)* per day and *(b)* per night would (i) fly in and out of Heathrow airport and (ii) pass over Hammersmith and Fulham if the third runway is built at Heathrow. [5893]

Ms Buck: Assessments of the additional capacity of Heathrow airport with a short third runway were made in connection with the preparation of the Air Transport White Paper and are set out in the supporting paper "Passenger Forecasts—Additional Analysis" available on the DfT website. It is not possible to be specific about how many additional daily flights would pass over Hammersmith and Fulham, since arrival and departure patterns are subject to air traffic control and meteorological conditions. Night-time traffic would be constrained by the night flying restrictions applying at the time at Heathrow.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers transferred or transited at Heathrow between *(a)* two overseas destinations and *(b)* an overseas destination and a UK destination in each of the last five years. [6464]

Ms Buck: The following table shows passengers transferred at Heathrow between two overseas destinations, an overseas destination and a UK destination in each of the last five years.

Transfer and transit passengers at Heathrow, 2000–04

Million

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Transfer					
International to International	13.7	13.7	16.4	16.4	17.3
International to Domestic	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.0
Domestic to International	2.4	2.3	2.9	3.4	2.9
Transit					
International to International	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2

Aviation Policy

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from the Sustainable Development Commission regarding the sustainability of the Government's aviation policies; and if he will make a statement. [7394]

Ms Buck: The Sustainable Development Commission have recently requested a meeting to discuss the proposals in their input to the Climate Change Programme Review. Their proposals include transport issues. A meeting will take place shortly.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in his review of the operation of the blue badge scheme. [8065]

Ms Buck: We are working to implement the recommendations for changes to the scheme made by our statutory advisers, the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee.

These changes involve amendment to both primary and secondary legislation as well as further research in some areas and revised guidance to local authorities.

Primary legislation

Provision for a power to inspect blue badges has been made through Section 94 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. We will be consulting on the guidance for enforcement officers and badge holders during the

summer. The new power will be introduced later this year by commencement order once the necessary guidance is in place.

Two other changes have been included in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. One to change the term 'institution' used in existing blue badge legislation to 'organisation' and another to allow for reciprocity with European Union member states and other countries. These measures are due to be introduced by commencement order at the end of June.

Secondary legislation

We are working on the recommendations requiring changes to regulations (including extending the scheme to children under the age of two and those with temporary disabilities) and we will consult on the draft regulatory package during the summer this year.

Research

We have recently let contracts for the following projects:

Feasibility study into setting up a national database of blue badge holders;

Looking into the independent mobility needs of certain groups of people (e.g. those with autism or mental health problems) to determine whether there is a need for extending the eligibility for a badge; and

Examination of the provision and use of parking spaces for disabled people in the central London area.

Two of the projects are scheduled for completion in December this year and the central London project in February next year, when final reports should be available.

Guidance

New guidance for issuing authorities and badge holders will be produced to cover all aspects of the scheme and issued when changes have been introduced.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost of the use of laptops in that period was; and if he will make a statement. [4116]

Ms Buck: The information requested on the use of laptop computers by officials in each year since 1995 is not available centrally or in the form requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of laptop computers available for use by Ministers, special advisers and their offices since the establishment of the Department for Transport on 29 May 2002 is as follows:

2002: 3 available for use by Ministers and their offices, 2 available for use by special advisers and their offices.

2003: 4 available for use by ministers and their offices, 2 available for use by special advisers and their offices.

2004: 4 available for use by Ministers and their offices, 2 available for use by special advisers and their offices.

2005: 4 available for use by Ministers and their offices, 2 available for use by special advisers and their offices.

Departmental records show the following numbers of lost or stolen laptop computers since the establishment of the Department for Transport on 29 May 2002:

	Lost	*Stolen*
Department for Transport	4	7
Driving Standards Agency	—	11
Highways Agency	1	10
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	6	5
Vehicle Certification Agency	—	2
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	—	13

Railways

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects a direct rail link between Thirsk and London to be established; and if he will make a statement. [7726]

Derek Twigg: The Office of Rail Regulation is examining an application from Grand Central Railway to operate a direct rail service from Sunderland to London Kings Cross calling at Thirsk and will announce its findings in due course.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for the future of sleeper train services in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [7105]

Mr. Darling: There is no general policy in relation to sleeper services. When considering the specification for each new franchise the value for money and affordability of all services currently provided by that franchise will be considered.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money his Department has spent on preparatory work on light rail projects in *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Liverpool, *(c)* Leeds and *(d)* Portsmouth. [7113]

Mr. Darling: My Department has provided £119 million to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive towards the scheme costs for Phase III of Manchester Metrolink. An additional £80 million has been provided to allow GMPTE to buy out the concession for Metrolink.

We are providing £4.2 million towards the preparatory costs incurred for developing the Merseytram Line 1 proposal.

We have provided £6 million to West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive towards the scheme costs for Leeds Supertram proposal.

We have provided £3 million to the promoters of South Hampshire Rapid Transit towards the scheme costs.

Road Schemes

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on *(a)* capital projects, *(b)* maintenance and *(c)* improvement schemes on (i) motorways and (ii) trunk roads in (A) West Sussex,

(B) Kent, (C) Durham, (D) East Riding of Yorkshire and (E) each English county in each of the last eight years. [7968]

Dr. Ladyman: The information cannot be provided as records are not readily available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* location was of each by-pass scheme approved in each of the past 15 years. [6545]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table provides information on by-passes that have been fully approved through the Local Transport Plan programme or have entered the Highways Agency's Targeted Programme of Improvements. Information is not held on trunk road by-passes prior to 1997 and prior to 2000 for major local road schemes.

Scheme	*(b) Location*	*(a) Cost (£ million)*
Derby Southern By-pass and Derby Spur	Derbyshire	19.8
Blackburn Southern By-pass Contract I	Lancashire	66
Blackburn Southern By-pass Contract II	Lancashire	80
Stratton By-pass (DBFO)	Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	[1]104.6
Latton By-pass (DBFO)	Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	
Market Deeping/Deeping St. James By-pass	Lincolnshire	7.6
Newbury By-pass	Berkshire	73.3
Puddleton By-pass (DBFO)	Devon/Dorset	[2]135.1
Derby Southern By-pass Contract B	Leicestershire	9.6
Polegate By-pass	East Sussex	28.9
Silverstone By-pass (including costs relating to A43 Whitfield Turn-Brackley Hatch Improvement and M40-B4031 Dualling)	Northamptonshire	107.1
Clapham By-pass	Bedfordshire	43.9
Stainburn and Great Clifton By-pass	Cumbria	12.5
Great Glen By-pass	Leicestershire	20.9
Nesscliffe By-pass	Shropshire	20.2
Basford, Hough, Shavington By-pass	Cheshire	54.3
Rothwell-Desborough By-pass	Northamptonshire	19
Rushden and Higham Ferrers By-pass	Northamptonshire	15.7
Aston Clinton By-pass	Buckinghamshire	44.4
Alvaston By-pass	Derbyshire	22.3
Bingley Relief Road	Bradford MBC	90.5
Selby By-pass	North Yorkshire	66.1
Wadesmill Colliers End	Hertfordshire	40.1
Lamberhurst By-pass	Kent	25.5
Chilton By-pass	Durham	9
Skelton Brotton By-pass	Redcar and Cleveland	16
A4146 Stoke Hammond/ Linslade Western By-pass	Buckinghamshire	53.8
Denaby Main Diversion	Doncaster	9
Barnsley Coalfields Link Road	Barnsley	6.5
A57 Cadishead Way (Brinell Drive to City Boundary)	Salford, Greater Manchester	19.9
Carlisle Northern Development Route	Carlisle, Cumbria	[3]78.8
Rearsby By-pass	Leicestershire	7.5
Partney By-pass—scheme part of 3 phases	Lincolnshire	15.5
Gloucester South West By-pass	Gloucestershire	35.7
Barnstaple Western By-pass	Devon	39.9
Broome-Ellingham By-pass	Norfolk	7.09
Great Leighs By-pass	Essex	17.1
Baldock By-pass	Hertfordshire	47.3
A142 Fordham By-pass	Cambridgeshire	12.5

[1] Latest outturn cost for the A417/A419 Swindon to Gloucester DBFO.
[2] Latest outturn cost for the A30/A35 Exeter-Bere Regis DBFO.
[3] PFI.

Stations

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train operating companies are participating in the secure station scheme. [8072]

Ms Buck: The following 19 train operating companies, including the London Underground, are participating in the secure stations scheme:

Arriva Trains Wales
C2C
Eurostar
First Great Western
Gatwick Station Services
GNER
London and Continental Stations and Property
London Underground—the Tube
Merseyrail
Midland Mainline
Northern Rail
Network Rail
One Railway
Serco Docklands Ltd
Silverlink
Southern
South West Trains
Thameslink
Virgin

Approximately two thirds of all overground rail journeys, one tenth of London Underground journeys and 90 per cent. of DLR journeys involve passengers starting or finishing their journey at a secure station.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Network Rail in the last six months about upgrading stations; and if he will make a statement. [5682]

Derek Twigg: Ministers are exploring with Network Rail what the company might do proactively to further address capacity problems at the larger stations across the network by working with private developers to realise additional development gain. Network Rail advises that further proposals are anticipated for a number of London mainline stations in the near future and that it is working on next stage development projects for smaller stations. These schemes will require

works to Network Rail specification, but will build in scope for bidders to reduce the net cost by exploiting development potential.

Vehicle Registration

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the penalties are for failing to have a V5C Vehicle Registration document; and from when they apply. [6720]

Dr. Ladyman: A keeper of a vehicle commits an offence for failing to produce a vehicle registration document (V5), or a vehicle registration certificate (V5C) for inspection, if required to do so at any reasonable time, to a police constable or a person acting on behalf of the Secretary of State. A vehicle keeper, if found guilty of this offence, is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £500.

There is no specific penalty for not having the new vehicle registration certificate.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will raise the lower earnings level at which council tax benefit starts to fall below the maximum to the level of the income tax personal allowance; and if he will estimate the cost of making such a change. [7271]

Mr. Plaskitt: An individual's earnings is only one of several factors affecting council tax benefit entitlement and we have no plans to make such a change.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of pensioner households paid *(a)* more than 5 per cent. *(b)* more than 10 per cent. and *(c)* more than 15 per cent. of their gross income in council tax in the most recent year for which figures are available. [6766]

Mr. Plaskitt: The proportion of pensioner households paying *(a)* more than 5 per cent. *(b)* more than 10 per cent. and *(c)* more than 15 per cent. of their household income in council tax for 2003–04, in Great Britain is presented in the following table:

Thresholds	*Percentage of pensioner households with spending on council tax bills as a proportion of household income above thresholds*
(a) 5 per cent.	47
(b) 10 per cent.	12
(c) 15 per cent.	3

Note:
Thresholds are calculated as quotients. The numerator 'council tax spent' is taken as the expenditure on council tax bill net of council tax benefit. The denominator is total household income net of council tax benefit.
Source:
Family Resources Survey (FRS), 2003–04

Home Responsibilities Protection

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a woman who works for a short time during a year when she is otherwise engaged in full-time child care is eligible for continued home responsibilities protection. [7331]

Mr. Timms: Yes, provided she is entitled to child benefit throughout the tax year.

Housing Allowance/Benefit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list flat rate housing allowances in each of the allowance pilot areas; what uprating methods are used for each allowance; and how many claimants of each flat rate allowance there are in each pilot area. [6323]

Mr. Plaskitt: Local housing allowance rates are set according to broad rental market areas and the number of rooms a claimant is eligible to have under the size criteria.

Local housing allowance rates are reviewed monthly by The Rent Service and the amount of local housing allowance payable is the rate that applies at the date of claim for benefit. Local housing allowance is awarded for one year unless a relevant change of circumstances occurs and triggers an earlier review.

The information is in the tables.

Local housing allowance (LHA) rate in Pathfinder areas, by broad market rental area (BRMA) and by type of LHA—June 2005

£ per week

Pathfinder area—BRMA	*Shared room rate*	*2 rooms*	*3 rooms*	*4 rooms*	*5 rooms*	*6 rooms*
Blackpool—Fylde	50	77.5	102.5	110	127.5	149
Brighton and Hove	70	130	171	208	237	276
Conwy—North coast	42.5	69	87	98	109	126
Conwy—North rural	40	63	74	82	85	107
Conwy—Menai	42.5	68	85	101	109	115
Coventry	50	92	107	110	121	139
Edinburgh—North	62	104	130	159	194	231
Edinburgh—East	62	101	130	159	200	237
Edinburgh—Central	69	115	147	190	248	306
Edinburgh—South	62	104	133	161	202	237
Leeds	50	83.5	101	113	123.5	137.5
Lewisham—LSE Central	78	155	208	235	280	355
Lewisham—LSE Inner	85	195	235	295	360	425
NE Lincolnshire	43.5	62.5	80	87.5	90	97.5

Local housing allowance (LHA) rate in Pathfinder areas, by broad market rental area (BRMA) and by type of LHA—June 2005

£ per week

Pathfinder area—BRMA	*Shared room rate*	*2 rooms*	*3 rooms*	*4 rooms*	*5 rooms*	*6 rooms*
Teignbridge—Teign	61	87	113	131	150	160
Teignbridge—Exeter	60	101	127	148	165	205
Teignbridge—Tiverton and Crediton	58	84	107	127	149	163
Teignbridge—Torbay	63	95	120	136	150	165
Teignbridge—South Devon	59	93	118	133	153	162
Teignbridge—Plymouth Environs	58	89	104	121	133	153

Source:
Data provided by The Rent Service, June 2005.

Number of claimants by local housing allowance type in each pathfinder area—November 2004

	Shared room rate	*2 rooms*	*3 rooms*	*4 rooms*	*5 rooms*	*6 plus rooms*	*All*
Blackpool	690	3,740	1,790	400	500	210	7,320
Brighton and Hove	1,580	3,690	1,760	340	220	110	7,690
Conwy	170	880	400	80	90	40	1,660
Coventry	410	970	860	180	280	120	2,830
Edinburgh	870	2,110	1,800	330	300	130	5,520
Leeds	980	1,660	1,140	240	350	200	4,570
Lewisham	1,010	1,070	760	190	210	90	3,340
North East Lincolnshire	330	1,400	1,350	330	380	140	3,940
Teignbridge	140	660	420	110	90	[1] —	1,440
All	6,170	16,180	10,270	2,200	2,430	1,060	38,300

[1] Nil or negligible.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
DWP administrative data for Pathfinder data November 2004.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what percentage of housing benefit claims a rent officer determination was involved in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area. [5447]

Mr. Plaskitt: This information is not available.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a housing benefit claim in the *(a)* private sector and *(b)* registered social landlord sector was in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by region. [5457]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the table.

Average time (calendar days) taken to process a housing benefit claim in the private sector (PRS) and registered social landlord sector (RSL) in the fourth quarter of 2004–05

Government office region	*PRS claims*	*RSL claims*
East Midlands	43	33
Eastern	52	35
London	52	40
North East	46	36
North West	39	32
Scotland	43	30
South East	43	30
South West	41	32
Wales	62	41
West Midlands	42	39
Yorks and Humberside	42	34
National average	46	34

Note:
Not all local authorities have returned data in every quarter; the reported figures are the weighted averages of those that have returned figures.

Source:
Local authority statistical returns.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what safeguards are in place to protect vulnerable claimants in the housing benefit pathfinders; and if he will make a statement. [5460]

Mr. Plaskitt: One of the aims of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is to promote personal responsibility and financial inclusion. As such the majority of customers will receive their LHA direct, and make their own arrangements to pay their rent to their landlord.

However, in recognition of the risk that some tenants may struggle with this responsibility, safeguards have been put in place. Pathfinder authorities have the discretion to make the payment to the landlord in certain circumstances, where there is a history of vulnerability or failure to pay their rent.

The local authorities implementing LHA have received guidance on when paying LHA to the tenant is likely to be inappropriate, but have the discretion to decide each case on its merits.

In addition, current regulations allow for housing benefit to be paid directly to the landlord where a tenant accrues at least eight weeks rent arrears; this provision is extended to the LHA scheme.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of benefit claimants who have *(a)* lost and *(b)* gained as a result of the introduction of the local housing allowance, broken down by Pathfinder area; and how much on average such claimants have (i) lost and (ii) gained, broken down by Pathfinder area. [5461]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no losers on the Local Housing Allowance in the Pathfinder areas. Claimants who would have been financially worse off under the Local Housing Allowance compared to the old housing benefit system are transitionally protected.

Information on those who are financially better off under the Local Housing Allowance compared to under the old housing benefit system is currently not available.

The Department has commissioned a comprehensive, independent evaluation of the Local Housing Allowance Pathfinders. This will provide information on the impact of the Local Housing Allowance, including information about gainers. The first interim findings of the evaluation are being published over the summer and the results of the final evaluation will be published at the end of next year.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a housing benefit claim was when a rent officer determination *(a)* was involved and *(b)* was not involved in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area. [5466]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of housing benefit claimants rent from the private sector in each of the housing benefit Pathfinder areas. [5471]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the table.

Housing benefit private tenants[1] by Pathfinder—February 2005

Local authority	*All private[1] tenants*	*Percentage of total housing benefit recipients that are private[1] tenants*
Blackpool	9,100	62.1
Brighton and Hove	9,900	42.7
Conwy	2,700	39.9
Coventry	5,300	24.2
Edinburgh	7,300	21.5
Leeds	7,500	13.9
Lewisham	5,200	18.2
North East Lincoln	4,900	40.1
Teignbridge	2,500	44.3

[1] Excluding registered social landlords.

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The caseloads are rounded to the nearest hundred and percentages are given to one decimal place.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February 2005.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit recipients in the pathfinder areas have built up rent arrears of eight weeks or more following the introduction of direct payment; in which pathfinder areas they are located; and what the total amount of arrears is in each pathfinder since the introduction of the local housing allowance. [5475]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available for housing benefit. The available information for the local housing allowance is in the table.

Local housing allowance recipients in the pathfinder areas who built up rent arrears of eight weeks or more, February 2005

Pathfinder areas	*Number of LHA claimants*	*Number of LHA claimants with 8 weeks or more rent arrears*	*Proportion of LHA claimants with 8 weeks or more rent arrears (%)*
Blackpool	8,140	630	8
Brighton and Hove	8,210	200	2
Conwy	1,990	30	2
Coventry	3,600	100	3
Edinburgh	5,940	50	1
Leeds	5,900	280	5
Lewisham	3,670	190	5
North East Lincolnshire	4,220	110	3
Teignbridge	1,870	30	1
All pathfinders	4,540	1,620	4

Notes:

1. There are differences between local authorities in classifying rent arrears. Therefore, the data reported may be over or underestimate of the actual situation.
2. The reported percentages in pathfinder areas vary between 1 per cent. and 8 per cent. and the average may be over or under estimated.
3. The data reported is a snapshot (mid February 2005) and not a full count of a quarter.

Source:

DWP administrative data for Pathfinder areas. February 2005.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average standard housing allowances are in each of the housing benefit pathfinder areas, broken down by household type. [5478]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the table.

Average local housing allowance amount for claimants in each Pathfinder area broken down by household type

£ per week

	Couple (under 60) with children	*Couple (under 60) no children*	*Single (under 60) with children*	*Single (under 60) no children*	*Single pensioner*	*Couple pensioner*	*All*
Blackpool	114	79	105	72	75	79	86
Brighton	193	127	176	106	117	130	129
Conwy	96	71	89	62	65	68	73
Coventry	119	91	107	73	79	89	92
Edinburgh	171	111	147	94	99	114	120
Leeds	119	84	109	72	77	88	88
Lewisham	247	151	223	115	131	164	158

Average local housing allowance amount for claimants in each Pathfinder area broken down by household type

£ per week

	Couple (under 60) with children	*Couple (under 60) no children*	*Single (under 60) with children*	*Single (under 60) no children*	*Single pensioner*	*Couple pensioner*	*All*
North East Lincs	87	67	79	64	64	66	73
Teignbridge	126	87	114	75	81	82	95
All	144	94	129	88	89	91	105

Notes:
1. Household status refers only to the claimant.
2. Local housing allowance amount refers to the maximum amount a claimant is eligible to receive. The amount of benefit a claimant actually receives may differ because of their circumstances.
3. Due to data concerns the table does not include the full local housing allowance caseload.

Source:
DWP administrative data for Pathfinder data November 2004, DWP income support data October and November 2004, DWP pension credit data Nov 2004, DWP jobseeker's allowance data Nov 2004.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the level of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error in housing benefit payments was as a percentage of housing benefit expenditure in each year since 1997; and what sums were involved in each case in each year, broken down by (i) region and (ii) local authority area; [5487]

(2) what the total amount of overpayments of housing benefit was in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [5452]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has undertaken continuous measurement of housing benefit fraud and error since 2002–03. The latest available headline information was published in the report "Fraud and Error in Housing Benefit, April 2002 to March 2004, Part One" on 24 February 2005.

Information is not available at local authority level. Information at regional level is contained within the supplementary report, "Fraud and Error in Housing Benefit, April 2002 to March 2004, Part Two", which was published on 26th May 2005.

Both reports are in the Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for further changes to the single room rent restriction. [5630]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no current plans to change the housing benefit single room rent restriction. However, under the local housing allowance, young people who would otherwise have been subject to the single room rent are entitled to the new shared room rate. This is based on a more generous definition than the existing single room rent.

The impact of this new rate will be assessed as part of the evaluation of the local housing allowance in nine pathfinder local authority areas. This evaluation will help inform national roll out.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the effect on the level of average housing benefit of the single room rent restriction. [5632]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. However, as at February 2005 the average weekly housing benefit award for cases assessed under the single room rent was £48.73.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit payment in each housing authority area in the North East was in November *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [6324]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the table.

Average weekly amount of housing benefit in north-east local authorities: November 2000 to 2004

£

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
North East GOR	40.19	42.36	45.78	45.06	47.68
Alnwick	37.26	38.64	40.56	42.46	43.72
Berwick upon Tweed	36.27	38.66	40.14	42.25	43.78
Blyth Valley	35.83	37.65	40.16	40.63	41.84
Castle Morpeth	37.67	39.60	41.61	44.73	46.05
Chester le Street	36.61	38.68	40.73	41.70	45.29
Darlington	43.08	46.20	51.02	49.51	51.91
Derwentside	41.34	44.37	43.49	43.69	46.27
Durham	37.78	39.70	43.23	42.96	45.70
Easington	36.08	38.45	40.20	40.81	44.53
Gateshead	36.46	39.44	41.96	43.67	45.11
Hartlepool	42.31	44.76	46.73	47.26	49.57
Middlesbrough	45.76	48.15	51.55	50.75	52.87
Newcastle upon Tyne	43.29	45.69	51.22	47.80	49.82
North Tyneside	38.64	41.33	46.90	45.22	47.11
Redcar and Cleveland	41.98	43.52	45.52	48.25	50.92
Sedgefield	37.44	39.62	42.56	43.42	45.73
South Tyneside	38.23	37.47	38.46	35.91	42.41
Stockton on Tees	42.11	44.49	47.22	47.01	50.15
Sunderland	41.47	44.12	50.03	47.10	49.91
Teesdale	41.53	43.08	45.11	45.39	46.64
Tynedale	38.41	41.46	43.99	45.79	47.14
Wansbeck	33.14	35.10	36.79	38.96	40.25
Wear Valley	39.15	41.10	45.45	45.34	46.85

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units which may be a single person, couple or family.
2. The figures are shown to the nearest penny.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken November 2000 to 2004.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time in England was for processing *(a)* initial housing benefit claims, *(b)* changes of circumstances in existing claims, *(c)* claims for council tax benefit and *(d)* changes of circumstances for council tax benefit, in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [6415]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information has been placed in the Library.

Rent Arrears

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the total amount of rent arrears of housing benefit recipients was in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area; [5437]

(2) how many housing benefit recipients have been evicted for rent arrears in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area; [5438]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of households which accumulated rent arrears as a result of the time taken to process housing benefit claims in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area. [5446]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Unemployment Levels

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on levels of unemployment since 1997 of *(a)* the new deal and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus initiatives; and if he will make a statement; [814]

(2) what his estimate is of the effect of the new deal on the claimant count for unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [967]

Margaret Hodge: The development of Jobcentre Plus is building on the high quality service already provided by social security offices and Jobcentres. The new offices deliver a single, integrated service with a clear focus on work to all people of working age. As a result of a strong economy and our active labour market policies, we have record levels of employment and the lowest sustained levels of unemployment for 30 years. The new deal has helped well over a million people to find jobs, and is giving people in all areas of the country the help and support they need to move off benefits and into work.

The Jobcentre Plus client base has changed considerably over the past few years. Since May 1997 claimant unemployment has roughly halved and, as at April 2005, the UK claimant count stands at 839,400, down 782,200 (48 per cent.) since the 1997 election. The claimant unemployment rate is 2.7 per cent.; down 2.7 percentage points since the 1997 election.

ILO unemployment in the UK stands at 1.40 million (January-March 2005), down 654,000 (32 per cent.) since the 1997 election. The ILO unemployment rate is 4.7 per cent. down 2.5 percentage points since the 1997 election.

The number of lone parents on benefit is down 20 per cent. to 763,000. Youth claimant unemployment has fallen by two-fifths, to its lowest level for 30 years; the number of 18 to 24-year-old claimants unemployed for more than a year has fallen by over 90 per cent.; and long-term adult unemployment (two year plus) has been cut by three quarters to its lowest level for 30 years.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Work-related Stress

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many cases of work-related stress have been reported among House staff in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7867]

Nick Harvey: The Parliamentary Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Service (OHSWS) have been recording cases of work-related stress as a separate category from other cases of stress only since the latter part of 2003; therefore accurate statistics are only available for 2004. In that year six cases were dealt with, representing approximately 0.38 per cent. of the House work force. Subsequent benchmarking has confirmed this to be a relatively low figure. Departments of the House and the OHSWS have proactively sought to support such staff, and consequent absence from work has been low. Long-term absence has been the exception rather than the rule. In most cases of reported stress, work is one of a number of contributory factors, including personal problems. No cases have resulted in civil action and resultant compensation.

Over the past year OHSWS have been leading a review of how the House manages and supports staff concerning issues of stress and wellbeing. Extensive research, benchmarking and gap analysis shows that appropriate support mechanisms are in place for staff. The House is committed to continuous improvement and implementing best practice, and the arrangements for minimising, recognising and managing stress at work are currently under review.

No estimate has been made of the cost of days lost as a result of work-related stress, or of the measures to deal with it.

DEFENCE

Bullying/Harassment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the complaints under Army redress procedures upheld or partially upheld between 1997 and 2003 related to issues of bullying or harassment; and how many *(a)* officers, *(b)* non-commissioned officers and *(c)* private soldiers were disciplined as a result; [2061]

(2) how many complaints have been considered by the Army Board from soldiers who are serving, or who have served, at *(a)* Deepcut Barracks and *(b)* ITC Catterick since 1997; and how many of these complaints related to issues of bullying or harassment. [2055]

Mr. Touhig: Bullying is not a criminal offence, nor a clearly defined form of behaviour; there are various definitions that cover all forms of harassment, abuse or intimidation. Furthermore, complainants do not use a

standard form of words and cases are recorded using the wording adopted by those making a complaint or seeking redress. Consequently, we are unable to identify every allegation, complaint or investigation that involves bullying without conducting a trawl of individual case records and archives, held in various databases and paper files. Our records do not lend themselves to the kind of analysis which these questions demand. Essentially, we would need to examine every case considered by the Army Board and make a judgment as to whether bullying or harassment were significant factors in the complaint. This would be extremely time consuming and it may not be immediately apparent whether this is the case or not. The scope for interpretation may also be quite wide. However, we have undertaken a rudimentary electronic search of our databases and spreadsheets to ascertain which complaints record allegations of bullying or harassment. This has highlighted eight cases, none of which relate to complaints upheld or partially upheld, by the Army Board.

None of the eight cases referred to relate to incidents alleged to have taken place at either Deepcut or Catterick.

Dentistry

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the availability of military dental practitioners in the services to practise on reserve forces personnel; and whether his Department's policy has changed on the use of military dental practitioners by reserve forces personnel. [5320]

Mr. Touhig: Reserve forces personnel are entitled to treatment on operations and exercises and during periods of military training. Dental teams are established at Chilwell to undertake initial dental examination and to provide urgently required treatment (if time allows) for reserve forces personnel called forward for deployment. There is no spare capacity within the Defence Dental Services to routinely treat reserve forces personnel.

Military Readiness

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the finding of the National Audit Office report Assessing and Reporting Military Readiness, paragraph 2.22, concerning the land contribution to any Joint Rapid Reaction Force; what land contribution the UK is able to make to such a force; what units are potentially available at the moment in extremis; and what limitations are being imposed by the factors mentioned in the paragraph. [7550]

Mr. Ingram: It is accepted that our continued commitment to operations in Iraq is impacting on the Army's ability to recuperate all land elements of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF). Under routine circumstances, the Army would maintain the following contingent land forces: a brigade sized grouping held at High Readiness; and two Strategic Reserves—the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) held at Extremely High Readiness and the Airborne Task Force (ABTF) held at Very High Readiness.

Since Operation Telic commenced the High Readiness Brigade has been routinely deployed to Iraq and has therefore been unavailable to the JRRF. Nonetheless, the SLE and ABTF have been maintained throughout.

Napalm Weapons (RAF Fairford)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that United States planes flying out of RAF Fairford do not use MK 77 napalm weapons. [7275]

John Reid: The operational use of the United Kingdom bases, including RAF Fairford, by the United States forces is a matter for joint decision by the UK and US Governments. It is not our practice to speculate or comment on specific aspects, such as weapons systems.

RAF Relocations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost will be of the re-locations of other service units located at RAF Innsworth following the relocation of Personnel and Training Command to RAF High Wycombe; and if he will list the proposed locations of these units. [6709]

Mr. Ingram: An element of the Armed Forces Personnel Administrative Agency (AFPAA) is located at RAF Innsworth. AFPAA are carrying out a separate investment appraisal into the options for their relocation from Innsworth. The results of this will not be known before the end of the year.

Regimental Uniforms

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 56W, on regimental uniforms, what the life expectancy is of each uniform; what the initial outfit allowance is for the *(a)* English, *(b)* Welsh and *(c)* Scottish Infantry regiments; when the last increase in initial outfit allowance was made; and what the previous allowance was. [3254]

Mr. Touhig: An Officers' Outfit Allowance is awarded on commissioning to allow officers to purchase their first uniform. Officers joining the majority of English and Welsh infantry regiments receive the standard allowance of £2,122.

For those joining certain regiments the allowance is adjusted in line with the type, and therefore cost, of their uniform, which varies across the Infantry. Those English, Welsh and Scottish infantry regiments where the Officers' Outfit Allowance differs from the standard rate are the Foot Guards (£2,774), the Lowland Regiments (£2,057), the Highland Regiments (£2,510), the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Parachute Regiment (both £2,032).

The Officers' Outfit Allowance was raised to its current level in 1994. Before this all newly commissioned officers into the infantry regiments received an allowance of £1,945 with the exception of those joining the Foot Guards (£2,706), the Lowland Regiments (£1,930) and the Highland Regiments (£2,330).

Officers' uniforms do not have a specific life expectancy as such. All uniforms are chosen on the basis that they are hard wearing and suitable for the tasks demanded of them. Officers are expected to keep their uniform in good order and maintain and replace accordingly. To do this an annual tax credit is awarded, based on the initial Outfit Allowance. This allows officers to purchase a new Service uniform approximately every five years.

Trafalgar Class Vessels

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 18W, on Trafalgar Class Vessels, what the theoretical safety concern and safety justification involved were; and if he will make a statement. [6035]

Mr. Ingram: It is an essential, mandatory and routine requirement to operate a Royal Navy nuclear submarine, that a safety justification is maintained which demonstrates it is safe to do so. This requires any issues potentially affecting the safe operation of the submarine, including theoretical ones, to be considered.

The theoretical safety concern on HMS Torbay and HMS Tireless centred on the potential effect of a number of small manufacturing imperfections in their nuclear reactor plant. A previous analysis had indicated that these imperfections were acceptable but a more modern analysis, using the latest information on material properties and component stress values, showed an increased theoretical risk of failure in some of these components. While there was no new defect, as part of the Royal Navy's commitment to safety, the decision was taken that the two submarines should not be operated further until the technical aspects had been fully examined and their continued safe operation could be justified. For HMS Torbay a safety justification is now in place to allow the operation of her nuclear reactor plant. The safety justification work required for HMS Tireless will be undertaken during her programmed maintenance and upgrade period, which is under way at Devonport.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Airbus A350

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the requests he has received regarding launch investment for the development of the Airbus A350; what assessment he has made of the implications of this project for the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [7297]

Ian Pearson: Airbus UK has formally submitted an application for launch investment, the terms of which are strictly confidential. It would not be appropriate to make a statement at this stage.

Broadband (East Sussex)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received regarding broadband access in East Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [7855]

Alun Michael: I am not aware of any recent correspondence relating specifically to East Sussex, though there is considerable correspondence about broadband. Great progress has been made in terms of broadband across the country, by the end of this summer over 99 per cent. of the population will have access. Activity to address the remaining gaps in coverage is taking place regionally.

I am pleased to say that access in East Sussex is extensive. All telephone exchanges except one are enabled for broadband and that one (Isfield) has a commercial wireless service which was installed about a month ago.

MG Rover

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish *(a)* the written recordings of conversations and *(b)* correspondence between (i) Ministers and (ii) officials from his Department and senior members of MG Rover's management that took place in the week commencing Monday 4 April. [5867]

Ian Pearson: It would be inappropriate to release this information at this time as it would breach commercial confidentiality and may prejudice the position of the administrators.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department are in continuing discussions with the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation. [5872]

Ian Pearson: Since SAIC made it clear they were not interested in pursuing a deal in the week following MG Rover's entry into administration, there has been no contact with SAIC by the Secretary of State or DTI officials as regards MG Rover.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he is in continuing discussions with the former senior managers of MG Rover. [5873]

Ian Pearson: There has been no ongoing contact between the Secretary of State and the former directors of Phoenix Venture Holdings since MG Rover's entry into administration.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact of the collapse of MG Rover on Rover dealerships; and if he will make a statement. [5874]

Ian Pearson: The collapse of MG Rover has had a devastating effect on MG Rover retailers. In response to this a sub-Group of the MG rover task force was set up. The sub-Group is chaired by Digby Jones, director general of the CBI and its membership is drawn from senior industry figures, the key trade associations, and Government officials. The sub-Group's role is to consider the impact of recent events on franchised dealerships and other retailers and service providers in the retail automotive sector. Progress to date includes:

Advantage West Midlands have agreed to extend access to the Advantage Transition Bridge Fund' to franchised dealers. Loans of £50,000 to £500,000 will be available to those facing financial difficulty and having a viable recovery plan but insufficient finance from normal sources to implement it;

HM Revenue and Customs are now applying the same approach to retailers as to suppliers as regards 'time to pay agreements' on VAT and PAYE, including to address the impact of VAT payable on bad debt. This includes pro-active calls to vulnerable retailers to discuss possible assistance;

The Learning and Skills Council are ensuring that apprentices released by MGR retailers will be found alternative placements and funding;

Job Centre Plus has agreed that those made redundant from retailers will be provided with their enhanced rapid response service, as being provided to MGR employees and those of suppliers; and

Business Link has confirmed that they stand ready to provide business planning and other advice to the retail sector via their regional network

The sub-Group continues to meet to monitor the situation and make recommendations to the Secretary of State on appropriate action to address the particular circumstances of the retail sector.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish the findings of the Financial Reporting Council concerning MG Rover; and if he will make a statement. [5875]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 412W.

Permanent Secretary

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the reasons were for the decision by his Department in February to delay the appointment of a permanent secretary until later in the year; whether this decision was announced publicly; and when he expects to announce the appointment of a new permanent secretary. [6639]

Mr. Hutton: I have been asked to reply.

The decision not to appoint was taken in light of the need to consider the broader picture of permanent secretary moves over the summer including the retirement of Sir Andrew Turnbull. Both No. 10 and Department of Trade and Industry issued press notices on 8 February 2005. The appointment will be settled in the next few months.

HOME OFFICE

Crime (Middlesbrough)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of identity fraud have been recorded in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last three years. [5903]

Andy Burnham: Offences of identity fraud cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime series and the information requested is therefore not available centrally.

Identity Cards Bill

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a registered person would have the right to see the audit trail of information held on him under Schedule 1, paragraph 9 of the Identity Cards Bill. [6785]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 June 2005]*: Schedule 1, paragraph 9 of the Identity Cards Bill allows for a record of every occasion on which information has been provided to a third party, and details of who that third party was, to be kept on the National Identity Register.

Private organisations requesting verification of identity from the National Identity Register can only do so with the consent of the registered individual. Information can only be supplied without consent in the specific circumstances outlined in Cl. 19-23 of the Identity Cards Bill.

The individual will always have subject access rights under the Data Protection Act 1998, subject to any exemptions within that Act, to information in their entry. This would include the information held on that individual under Schedule 1, paragraph 9 of the Identity Cards Bill.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what percentage of persons registered in the National Identity Register he estimates *(a)* no biometric information and *(b)* no biometric information other than the face biometric would be recorded, broken down by (i) ethnicity, (ii) socio-economic group, (iii) occupation and (iv) age. [6786]

Andy Burnham: As biometric technology is constantly evolving and improving, it is not possible to give a precise estimate until technology performance requirements are established and equipment is procured for the Identity Card Scheme. The most recent research figures are from the UKPS biometric trial. However, this was not intended as a test of technology and the equipment used will have evolved significantly by the time the Identity Cards Scheme is introduced. Nevertheless, the trial did demonstrate that the number unable to record any biometric information is statistically small and special arrangements, including improved enrolment facilities are being considered for this group. Specifically, the result of this trial demonstrated that, of the total sample, 99.954 per cent. of participants could successfully record at least one biometric successfully. 0.29 per cent. of the entire sample were only able to record the facial biometric on its own. The following tables show the enrolment rates broken down by ethnicity, age and socio-economic group. References in the tables to the face failure rate refers only to the first attempt—virtually all individuals were successful after multiple attempts but these figures are not available in the report. The iris and fingerprint figures were for multiple attempts. In addition, the trial results provided some breakdowns for successful enrolment of each individual biometric by ethnicity, socio-economic group and age, although no breakdown provided for the provision of all three and there is no breakdown by occupation. Nor were there breakdowns for the requested groups for those who could provide no biometric information other than face. The relevant information which was recorded during the trial is shown in the following tables. Reference to face failure

rate refers to only the first attempt—virtually all were successful after multiple attempts but no figures were provided in the evaluation report.

Successful enrolment rates

Ethnicity	*Percentage* *Fingerprint*	*Iris*	*Face*
Asian	99.07	88.09	96.91
Black	97.72	81.01	93.06
Chinese/East Asian	100.00	85.05	95.50
White	99.37	91.33	95.24
Other	99.25	90.11	96.22

Note:
Figures from Quota and Opportunistic Groups

Age	*Percentage* *Fingerprint*	*Iris*	*Face*
18–24	98.96	90.89	97.63
25–34	99.10	93.48	97.16
35–44	99.46	94.41	95.89
45–54	99.46	92.23	95.58
55–59	99.07	91.31	95.06
60–64	99.41	86.81	94.92
65 plus	99.32	78.27	95.95

Note:
Figures from Quota and Opportunistic Groups

Socio-economic group	*Fingerprint percentage*
A	100.00
B	98.70
C1	98.39
C2	99.48
D	98.00
E	97.30

Notes:
1. Figures for Quota Group only.
2. Iris and face successful enrolment rates broken down by socio-economic group were not part of the terms of reference for this part of the study.

Unsuccessful enrolment rates

Ethnicity	*Percentage* *Fingerprint*	*Iris*	*Face*
Asian	0.93	11.91	3.09
Black	2.28	18.99	6.94
Chinese/East Asian	0.00	13.95	4.50
White	0.63	8.67	4.76
Other	0.75	9.89	3.78

Note:
Figures from Quota and Opportunistic Groups.

Age	*Percentage* *Fingerprint*	*Iris*	*Face*
18–24	1.04	9.11	2.37
25–34	0.90	6.52	2.84
35–44	0.54	5.59	4.11
45–54	0.54	7.77	4.42
55–59	0.93	8.69	4.94
60–64	0.59	13.19	5.08
65 plus	0.68	21.73	4.05

Note:
Figures from Quota and Opportunistic Groups

Mobile Fingerprint Technology

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Department has to enable the police to fit mobile fingerprint technology to their vehicles. [4411]

Hazel Blears: Work on introducing mobile fingerprint technology and fitting them to police vehicles is being taken forward by the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) in conjunction with the police service. At present an operational demonstrator has been fitted to a number of vehicles in a pilot force.

Muggings

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each year since the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in each age cohort under the age of 18 have been issued with reprimands or final warnings for muggings; and how many of those have later been convicted of another offence. [3796]

Hazel Blears: It is not possible to distinguish 'muggings' from other forms of robbery. Available information from the Home Office Court Proceedings database on the number of persons in each age cohort under the age of 18 who have been issued with a reprimand or final warning since the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for robbery are contained in the table. It is not possible to identify those offenders who have then later been convicted of another offence. Statistics for 2004 will be available in the autumn.

Number of juveniles issued with a reprimand or final warning for robbery, by age cohort, England and Wales 1999–2003[1]

Offence: Robbery *Statute: Theft Act 1968 Sec 8*	*Age cohorts* *10–11 years*	*12–14 years*	*15–17 years*
1999	53	233	191
2000	66	266	187
2001	39	228	195
2002	36	182	121
2003	44	188	128

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

Recreational Drugs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated concerning the effects of using Viagra as a recreational drug along with amyl nitrates. [5852]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Before a medicine can be marketed in the United Kingdom, the manufacturer is required to conduct extensive clinical trials, the results of which are carefully evaluated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on behalf of the Licensing Authority. The Licensing Authority decides whether a marketing authorisation (product licence) can be granted and is advised on this matter by an independent advisory body, the Committee on Safety of Medicines. As independent experts, they undertake a thorough examination of the extensive scientific and technical information supplied in support of the application.

The manufacturer, in conjunction with the Licensing Authority, has provided guidance on prescribing and use of Viagra in the summary of product characteristics for healthcare professionals and patient information leaflet (PIL) for patients. These documents provide full up-to-date information on correct use of Viagra, including contraindicating (prohibiting) the use of Viagra in combination with nitrates. The PIL states:

"Do not take Viagra if you are taking medicines containing nitrates, or nitric oxide donors such as amyl nitrite ("poppers"). Viagra can cause a serious increase in the effects of these medicines. Tell your doctor if you are taking any of these medicines."

CABINET OFFICE

DirectGov

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the launch of the DirectGov internet portal for Government services. [7897]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave the hon. Member for Loughborough (Mr. Reed) on 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1387W.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4125]

Mr. Hutton: The number of laptops used, lost and stolen in the Department in the period 2000 to 2004 are shown in the table.

	Number used	*Number lost*	*Number stolen*
2000	222	0	0
2001	540	0	1
2002	629	0	0
2003	731	6	3
2004	813	2	4

In addition the Cabinet Office Ministerial Support Group currently has a pool of 12 laptops for the use of Ministers, special advisers and officials within the group.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Antarctic Consultative Meeting (Swedish Proposal)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what policy positions the Government advocated at the 28th Antarctic Consultative Meeting, with particular reference to the Swedish proposal regarding the remedying of pollution. [5879]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* A new annex on Liability Arising from Environmental Emergencies to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was adopted at the 28th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held this year in Stockholm from 6 to 17 June 2005.

This new annex has been the subject of negotiations among Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties for the past 12 years. The UK has been actively and constructively engaged in all negotiations and is fully committed to the implementation of the new annex.

UK-led initiatives on other issues that were agreed in Stockholm included Site Guidelines for Visitors to Antarctica and a Management Plan for Deception Island.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the prevalence of provocative nationalism by local authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [6738]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Nationalist sentiments among all three constituent peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continue to obstruct the reform process, notably on public broadcasting, police restructuring and defence reform, all of which are requirements for BiH's further progress towards the European Union and NATO. We have made representations to the Bosnian authorities about the need to tackle this problem.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, it is important that the constituent peoples of BiH and all the countries of the region turn away once and for all from nationalism and work to promote lasting reconciliation.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the rate of return of displaced groups to their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [6739]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) figures, the rate of return of displaced persons to their pre-war homes has dropped in the last five years, as most of those willing to return have now done so. The overall number of returns has, however, continued to increase slowly. By September last year, a million refugees and displaced people had returned to their homes, from an estimated 2.2 million displaced by the conflict of the 1990s.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the segregation of minority returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [6740]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Of the approximately one million refugees and displaced people who had returned to their pre-war homes by January 2005, over 450,000 had returned to areas where they were not the ethnic majority. But there is more work to be done. Some minority returnees still face discrimination in access to jobs in public services and private employment and to education, health and social security. The failure to bring to justice all war crimes indictees has also reduced confidence in the return process. Economic development remains a priority to ensure the sustainable return of minority returnees.

Burma

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with the Burmese authorities on encouraging increased democracy in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [7907]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 25 May 2005, *Official Report*, column 132W.

Burundi

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government provides to the Regional Peace Initiative for Burundi; and if he will make a statement. [7362]

Ian Pearson: The Regional Peace Initiative for Burundi (RPI) is chaired by Ugandan President Museveni and comprises representatives of the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. The Government of Burundi, the African Union and the UN are party to its discussions. It meets on an ad hoc basis.

The UK and EU partners provide political support to the RPI, and provide development support to Burundi in order to help it carry out the recommendations of the RPI. Total UK development assistance to Burundi in financial year 2005–06 will be around £10 million.

EU Committees

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times during the *(a)* Italian, *(b)* Irish and *(c)* Dutch Presidency of the EU the (i) Joint Committee (EEC-India), (ii) Joint Committee (EC-Laos) and (iii) Joint Committee (EEC-Macao) met; when and where these meetings took place; what UK Government expert was present; and if he will make a statement. [573]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The EEC-India Joint Committee met once under the Dutch Presidency on 10 September 2004 in Brussels. It did not meet under the Italian or Irish Presidencies.

The EEC-Laos Joint Committee met once under the Irish Presidency on 7 Jan 2004 in Vientiane. It did not meet under the Italian and Dutch Presidencies. The EEC-Macao Joint Committee met once under the Irish Presidency on 3 March 2004 in Macao. It did not meet during the Italian or Dutch Presidencies. These are Commission led groups, which the Presidency of the day attends as observers only, representing other member states. As such there were no British officials present at these meetings.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times during the *(a)* Italian, *(b)* Irish and *(c)* Dutch presidency of the EU the (i) EEC-Mercosur Joint Advisory Committee, (ii) Joint Committee (EEC-Argentina) and (iii) Joint Committee (EEC-Brazil) met; when and where these meetings took place; what UK Government expert was present; and if he will make a statement. [627]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The EEC-Mercosur Joint Advisory Committee did not meet under the Italian, Irish or Dutch presidencies. The EEC Argentina Joint Committee met once during the Dutch presidency on 13 December 2004 in Buenos Aires. The UK was represented by staff of the British embassy in Buenos Aires. It did not meet under the Italian or Irish presidencies. The EEC-Brazil Joint Committee did not meet during the Italian, Irish or Dutch presidencies.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times during the *(a)* Italian, *(b)* Irish and *(c)* Dutch presidency of the EU the (i) Joint Committee (EEC-Vietnam), (ii) Joint Committee (EEC-Central America) and (iii) Joint Committee (EEC-Mexico) met; when and where these meetings took place; what UK Government expert was present; and if he will make a statement. [632]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The EEC-Vietnam Joint Committee met once during the Italian presidency on 21 November 2003 in Brussels. This is a Commission led group, which the presidency of the day attends as observer only, representing other member states. As such there were no British officials present at these meetings. It did not meet under the Irish or Dutch presidencies of the EU. The EEC-Central America Joint Committee met once during the Italian presidency on 3 October 2003 in Brussels. The UK was represented by staff from the UK representation in Brussels. It did not meet under the Irish or Dutch presidencies. The EEC-Mexico Joint Committee met twice, once under the Italian presidency on 11 November 2003 in Brussels and once during the Dutch presidency on 10 November 2004 in Mexico. The UK was represented at the 2003 meeting by staff from the UK representation in Brussels and at the 2004 meeting by staff from the British embassy in Mexico City. It did not meet during the Irish presidency.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times during the *(a)* Italian, *(b)* Irish and *(c)* Dutch presidency of the EU the (i) Joint Committee (EEC-Nepal), (ii) Joint Committee (EEC-Pakistan) and (iii) Joint Committee (EEC-Sri Lanka) met; when and where these meetings took place; what UK Government expert was present; and if he will make a statement. [635]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The EEC-Nepal Joint Committee met once under the Dutch presidency in September 2004 in Kathmandu. It did not meet under the Italian or Irish presidencies. The EEC-Pakistan Joint Committee did not meet under the Italian, Irish or Dutch presidencies. The EEC-Sri Lanka Joint Committee met once under the Dutch presidency on 29 October 2004 in Brussels. No meetings took place during the Italian or Irish presidencies. These are Commission led groups, which the presidency of the day attends as observers only, representing other member states. As such there were no British officials present at these meetings.

EU Constitution

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether it is his policy that the creation of an EU External Action

Service, as proposed in Article III-296(3) of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, could be agreed without ratification of the Treaty; [4220]

(2) pursuant to his statement of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1000, on the EU Constitutional Treaty, whether it is his policy that the changes to the system of qualified majority voting proposed in the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, could be agreed without ratification of the Treaty; [4221]

(3) whether it is his policy that the creation of a President of the EU, as proposed in the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, could be agreed without ratification of the Treaty. [4894]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The creation of a President of the EU as proposed in the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, the changes in respect of the voting system and the provision of an EU External Action Service could not be agreed without ratification of the Treaty or of an amendment of the existing EU Treaties by all the member states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

EU Linguistic Regime

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government will implement the EU linguistic regime, agreed at the General Affairs Council of 13 June, with respect to any of the UK's languages in addition to English. [6979]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The General Affairs and External Relations Council of 13 June adopted conclusions, on a proposal from Spain, for a degree of official recognition in the EU of all languages that have official status in member states, either through their constitutions or national law. This means that member states may enter into administrative arrangements with the EU institutions over which languages may be used in relations with them, with the member state meeting all the direct or indirect costs incurred. Member states have agreed that any such arrangement should not have any effect on the otherwise efficient functioning of the institutions or on the legal status of the existing official languages of the Union. At the moment, Spain is the only country to have requested such arrangements for its regional languages. The Government have no current plans to make similar provisions for UK languages.

European Parliament

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer, of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 653, on European Union (Finances), whether it is his Department's policy that the European Parliament should continue to meet in Strasbourg; and if he will make a statement. [6977]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Strasbourg was chosen as a site for the European Parliament (EP) in 1958, well before the UK joined the EU. It was chosen as a symbol of Franco-German reconciliation. While the Government believe that the splitting of the EP's sites is far from ideal, any change to the status quo would need the unanimous agreement of all 25 member states. That looks unlikely for the foreseeable future.

Human Rights

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in South Wales on 1–2 September will include discussion of pan-European attitudes to human rights. [6847]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The agenda for the meeting has not yet been set.

IT Contracts

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* projected cost at the time of tender and *(b)* actual cost at the time of completion was for each IT contract commissioned by his Department in the last five years. [2577]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a devolved procurement structure covering the UK and its overseas posts (over 200). As such there is no central database of all the Information Communication Technology (ICT) contracts in the FCO. We have recently installed a new Electronic Resource Management (ERM) system in London and are in the process of installing this system in all our posts overseas. Until this is complete, and our new reporting systems are in place, we are unable to produce the information requested without exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold. We are, however, able to provide information on our major ICT contracts (in excess of £1 million) as required by the question. A full list of contracts, including costs, will be made available in spreadsheet format to the Library of the House.

Moldova

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Moldova. [6478]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Foreign engagements for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers are kept under constant review. It is not our practice to announce such visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not possible until very shortly before the day of travel.

Russia

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings he has had with Russian authorities to discuss British investment in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [6704]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not recently met with Russian authorities to discuss British investment in Russia.

However Russia offers many investment opportunities. Some notable UK investments include BP's $6.75 billion joint ventures with the Russian oil company TNK, Pilkington's €165 million investment to build a glass production plant in Moscow and Shell's

operation in the $10 billion Sakhalin II project. Total foreign direct investment into Russia was $40.9 billion, a 36.4 per cent. increase on 2003, of which $7 billion is attributed to the UK.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has received about media independence in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [6705]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since June 2004, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has received one letter about the murders of journalists in Russia and three parliamentary questions about media freedom in the Russian Federation. The FCO's contacts with the NGO community reinforce the conclusion that media freedom is an important issue in the democratic development of Russia.

We are actively engaged in a bilateral human rights dialogue with the Russian Government. The latest round of talks was held in Moscow on 23 May 2005 and included discussion of media freedom in Russia.

We are also engaged, with our European partners, in biannual EU-Russia human rights consultations. The first session of consultations took place in Luxembourg on 1 March 2005. Media freedom in Russia was discussed. The next round of consultations is scheduled to take place under the UK Presidency of the EU on 8 September 2005.

In addition to this, staff at our Embassy in Moscow continue to raise our concerns with their interlocutors in the Russian Government, including with official institutions in Russia that exist to protect and promote human rights.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Russian Government about Russia's accession to the World Trade Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [6706]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We have not had any recent discussions with Russia concerning World Trade Organisation accession, on which negotiations between the EU and Russia were concluded in May 2004.

Sudan

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Sudan concerning reports of fighting along its border with Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [7376]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* We are concerned by recent reports of fighting around the town of Tokar in Eastern Sudan between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front, supported by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). Our ambassador in Khartoum raised this issue with the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front on 23 June.

The UK special representative for Darfur raised this matter with the JEM in Abuja on 21 June. We have re-iterated to the Eastern Front that co-operation with the JEM in military operations unnecessarily complicates the issues in the East and undermines their claims of commitment to a peaceful resolution.

We have made clear to all parties that any attacks are totally unacceptable, and there is no military solution to the problems in the East, nor to those elsewhere in Sudan. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides the framework for a political solution throughout the country, including Darfur and the East. The Government of Sudan have stated its readiness to engage in consultations with the Eastern Front. We are pressing the Eastern Front to do the same.

Uzbekistan

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what efforts he is making to lobby for an end to the 'sizdan ugina, bizdan bugina' culture of public officials in Uzbekistan; and if he will make a statement. [6749]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Good governance, both economic and political, is a key aspect of our dialogue with Uzbekistan. We have consistently and repeatedly brought to the attention of senior Government figures the importance of transparency in governance and the negative effects of corruption. In a speech to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC on 18 May 2005, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called upon the Uzbek Government to develop a much more open and pluralistic society in order to address the root causes of the recent disturbances in Andizhan. This message has also been taken forward in Uzbekistan. On 15 May, our ambassador to Tashkent raised with Deputy Foreign Minister Nematov the importance of political and economic reform in the light of events in Andizhan.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Kyrgyz authorities to protest against the apparent forced return of Uzbek refugees in early June to their home country; and if he will make a statement. [6768]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 733W to my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd, South (Mr. Jones).

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what visits the UK ambassador in Tashkent has made to *(a)* Andijan and *(b)* the Fergana Valley since 17 May. [6769]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: David Moran, our ambassador to Tashkent, has made two visits to Andizhan (Andijan) since 17 May 2005.

The first was on 18 May, when he accompanied a group of diplomats, members of international organisations and the media. Mr. Moran's lobbying had been instrumental in prompting the Uzbek authorities to organise this visit. The event was tightly controlled, and Mr. Moran was unable to engage members of the public. Having pressed Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Nematov on these restrictions, Mr. Moran secured agreement that he and EU colleagues could return unaccompanied.

On 26 and 27 May, Mr. Moran returned to Andizhan. He visited the central Yangi bazaar, and the city's central square. There was a high security service presence, and members of the public appeared afraid to approach Mr. Moran. He had a similar experience at the Kyrgyz border near Pakhtaabad, and at the border town of Karasu. This represented a distinct change from public behaviour in early May, when people had gathered around the visiting Defence Attaché's car, and asked him to pass news of events in Andizhan outside Uzbekistan.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what his policy is on the OSCE's efforts to promote a public inquiry into the events of 13 May in Andijan in Uzbekistan; [6770]

(2) how many people he estimates have died in the apparent uprising in Andijan in Uzbekistan on 13 May; [6771]

(3) what efforts he has made to investigate the events of 13 May in Andijan in Uzbekistan; and if he will make a statement. [6772]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We were extremely disturbed by reports of Uzbek troops firing on demonstrators in Andizhan (Andijan). When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary first heard these reports, he urged the Uzbek Government to allow an independent, international investigation. We are pleased that the US, the UN, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and NATO have all done the same. The UK was at the forefront in condemning the indiscriminate and disproportionate use offeree by the Uzbek Government.

Islam Karimov, Uzbek President, responded to our repeated calls for an inquiry by creating a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the unrest. We, and our European Union (EU) partners, have made clear that we consider this an insufficient response. On 13 June, the General Affairs External Relations Council (GAERC) called on the Uzbek Government to reconsider its position, giving a deadline of 30 June. Failure to do so will lead to punitive EU measures, including partial suspension of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA).

It is not possible to say how many people died during the unrest in Andizhan, but the recent OCSE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' (ODIHR) report, which was published on 20 June, estimated that between 300 and 500 were killed.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the situation in Andijan, Uzbekistan has been stabilised; and if he will make a statement. [6829]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Staff from the British Embassy in Tashkent have made five visits to Andizhan (Andijan) and the surrounding region since the unrest began. David Moran, our Ambasssador to Tashkent, visited first on 18 May when he accompanied a group of diplomats, members of international organisations and the media. Mr. Moran's lobbying had been instrumental in prompting the Uzbek authorities to organise this visit. The event was tightly controlled, and Mr. Moran was unable to engage members of the public. Having pressed Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Nematov on these restrictions, Mr. Moran secured agreement that he and EU colleagues could return unaccompanied.

He visited Andizhan again on 26 May, when he saw the central Yangi bazaar, and city's central square. On the same visit, he also went to the border town of Karasu, where he observed brisk market trading. Since the visits made by Embassy staff earlier in May, however, he noticed a significant increase in security service presence, and commented that members of the public appeared afraid to approach him.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with those conducting the investigations into the Andijan uprising. [7272]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In late May 2005, Uzbek President Karimov responded to repeated calls for an independent, international inquiry by creating a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the events of 12–13 May in Andizhan (Andijan), inviting diplomats from the US, France, Russia, China and Uzbekistan's regional neighbours to observe its work. On 13 June, at the General Affairs External Relations Council (GAERC), we and our EU partners rejected Karimov's proposal, and reaffirmed our call for an independent international investigation, giving a deadline of 30 June. In view of this, we have made no attempt to contact the Uzbek Parliamentary Committee.

We are, however, continuing to monitor closely the situation in Andizhan. Members of staff from the British Embassy, Tashkent, have visited the area five times since 13 May. We are also aware of the reports published by the US-based NGO Human Rights Watch, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), which suggest that the Uzbek authorities used indiscriminate and disproportionate force in Andizhan. These reports, which include interviews with eye witnesses now on the Kyrgyz side of the border, further underline the need for a comprehensive, international and independent inquiry in Uzbekistan.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime (Commercial Premises)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what has been the recorded level of crime involving commercial premises in each Belfast police district in each of the past five years with reference to *(a)* burglary, *(b)* robbery, *(c)* armed robbery, *(d)* theft and *(e)* shoplifting. [7160]

Mr. Woodward: The statistics requested are as in the following tables. Figures relating to thefts from commercial premises have not been provided as it is not possible to differentiate between personal and business victims.

Crimes recorded by the police

Offence type	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
East Belfast District command Unit					
Non-domestic burglary	410	403	518	358	283
Robbery—business	20	25	23	8	8
Armed robbery—business	58	106	106	78	35
Shoplifting	413	290	265	226	223
North Belfast District Command Unit					
Non-domestic burglary	320	454	426	389	294
Robbery—business	34	36	39	27	11
Armed robbery—business	73	137	189	98	110
Shoplifting	288	271	229	169	159
South Belfast District Command Unit					
Non-domestic burglary	644	736	877	659	899
Robbery—business	42	69	70	43	26
Armed robbery—business	103	185	161	109	105
Shoplifting	1,570	1,442	1,251	1,096	1,211
West Belfast District Command Unit					
Non-domestic burglary	195	246	197	132	132
Robbery—business	18	23	22	13	5
Armed robbery—business	72	64	77	53	34
Shoplifting	149	131	103	71	49

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Crime Reporting

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what research has been carried out by his Department into the change in the level of non-reporting of crime in Northern Ireland in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [7159]

Mr. Hanson: Change in the level of reporting of crime in Northern Ireland is most frequently measured by the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), the most recent published results for which relate to the 1998, 2001 and 2003–04 sweeps. In addition, the 2000 International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS) compared crime reporting rates across 17 industrialised countries or regions, including Northern Ireland.

Although, typically, less than half of crime is reported to the police, Northern Ireland tends to have a higher reporting rate than England and Wales and it had the highest rate of all countries participating in the 2000 ICVS. Reporting rates can fluctuate for a number of reasons, including, changes in the level or mix of crime occurring or in the level of confidence in the police and the wider criminal justice system.

Information from the NICS and ICVS on the levels of crime reported to the police is contained within the Northern Ireland Office Research and Statistical Bulletins 1/2001 "International Crime Victimisation Survey 2000: Key Findings for Northern Ireland" and 4/2005 "Crime Victimisation in Northern Ireland: Findings from the 2003/04 Northern Ireland Crime Survey", copies of which are available from the House of Commons library. The bulletins can also be downloaded from the internet (http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/publications.htm).

Elections

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of distributing 2005 election communications via the Royal Mail in Northern Ireland. [2256]

Mr. Hanson: This is an operational matter and is the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer who is writing to the hon. Lady. The text of the letter reads:

> The cost of providing the Royal Mail service to distribute election material on behalf of candidates at both the Parliamentary General Election and the 28 district council elections was £507,479.51.

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total costs were of the 2005 *(a)* local council and *(b)* Westminster elections in Northern Ireland. [2257]

Mr. Hanson: Final figures are not yet available for the cost of each election. The estimated cost of the district council elections is £1.75 million and the estimated cost of the parliamentary general election in Northern Ireland is £2.5 million.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people *(a)* below the age of 18 and *(b)* over the age of 60 years have been living in fuel-poor households in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [7632]

Mr. Hanson: Figures on fuel poverty, which are classified in terms of households rather than by age groups, are collected through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's House Condition Survey and not on an annual basis. The last survey, completed in 2001, indicated that *(a)* 54,920 households, where there were children, and *(b)* 102,039 households, where the head of household was over the age of 60, were living in fuel poverty.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by Invest Northern Ireland on new road layouts in each of the sites that they own in *(a)* North Belfast, *(b)* South Belfast, *(c)* East Belfast and *(d)* West Belfast in each year since 2003. [7852]

Angela E. Smith: In 2003, Invest NI spent £190,000 on infrastructure including roads at the Springfield Road. In 2004 it spent £3.26 million on infrastructure works including roads at Spring Vale, Springfield Road and Forthriver Business Park. To date in 2005 it has spent £810,000 at Forthriver Business Park. All of these sites are in West Belfast. Invest NI did not incur any expenditure on road works in any other of its properties in Belfast.

Religious Hatred Prosecutions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many successful prosecutions there have been in Northern Ireland under the prevention of incitement to religious hatred legislation since its introduction in 1987. [7579]

Mr. Hanson: Data prior to 1993 are not available; data beyond 2003 will be available later in 2005.

During the period 1993 to 2003, there were no prosecutions for incitement to religious hatred. There was one prosecution and subsequent conviction for distributing written material to incite hatred.

Sentencing

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent research has been conducted by his Department to compare the severity of sentencing in Northern Ireland courts with those in England and Wales for similar offences; and if he will make a statement. [7156]

Mr. Hanson: Given the different sentencing practices across jurisdictions and the number of variable factors in individual cases, formal comparisons of the severity of sentencing in Northern Ireland courts and those in England and Wales have not been undertaken. The recently completed consultation on the Sentencing Framework in Northern Ireland will however provide an opportunity to consider issues relating to the disposals available to the courts in Northern Ireland and the types of sentences handed down.

Tennis

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will initiate an independent review of whether tennis as a sport in Northern Ireland is best promoted and developed under its current affiliation to Tennis Ireland. [7049]

Mr. Hanson: I have no plans to initiate an independent review of whether tennis as a sport in Northern Ireland is best promoted and developed under its current affiliation to Tennis Ireland as this is not a matter for me, but a matter for the Ulster Branch of Tennis Ireland and its members. I am aware, however, that following recent meetings with the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, the Ulster Branch of Tennis Ireland has agreed to enter into exploratory discussions on possible options for any player that might prefer a different affiliation.

Voting (General Election)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of those eligible to vote in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland who were unable to vote at the general election on 5 May as a result of not having a correct form of identification. [323]

Mr. Hanson: According to figures provided by the Chief Electoral Officer, 3,818 electors were originally turned away from polling stations without valid photographic identification. Of those electors, 1,555 subsequently returned before the close of poll with an alternative, correct form of ID and were able to cast their vote. The remaining 2,263 electors were unable to vote because of a failure to produce valid identification.

The totals recorded for those who were originally turned away, per constituency, were as follows:

Constituency	*Number originally turned away for invalid ID*
Belfast, East	162
Belfast, North	193
Belfast, South	187
Belfast, West	164
East Antrim	167
East Londonderry	174
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	368
Foyle	199
Lagan Valley	163
Mid-Ulster	239
Newry and Armagh	352
North Antrim	301
North Down	124
South Antrim	175
South Down	187
Strangford	166
Upper Bann	263
West Tyrone	234
Total	3,818

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of disabled voters in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland who were unable to vote at the general election as a result of access restrictions at polling stations. [344]

Mr. Hanson: This is an operational matter and is the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer who is writing to the hon. Member. The text of the letter reads:

"The Electoral Office has no indication that significant numbers of disabled electors were unable to vote on 5 May because of access restrictions at polling stations. While we do seek to ensure that every polling place is readily accessible by all electors and have, for some time, been working with the Equality Commission and owners of property to encourage compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act, adjustments take time. In the interim, we do keep the polling station scheme under constant review and encourage anyone with local knowledge who may be aware of more suitable premises to put forward their ideas. In addition, as you know a public consultation exercise on the scheme was carried out earlier this year and all comments received were taken into account before finalising arrangements for this year's elections".

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Affordable Housing

Mr. Steen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what advice he has received from the Regional Housing Board on the amount of affordable housing needed in Devon *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* over the next 10 years. [7678]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The provision of affordable housing is a local authority responsibility and should be made on the basis of robust local assessments of needs. Policy ST18 in the adopted Structure Plan for Devon 2001–16 highlights the strategic importance of the need to provide for

affordable housing and establishes a consistent basis for the development of local plan policies throughout Devon.

The South West Housing Body has however made the provision of additional affordable housing in Devon and across the region its number one priority, and its forthcoming advice to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister on the allocation of capital funding for affordable housing for 2006–07 and 2007–08 will reflect this situation. Further work will be undertaken by the Regional Housing Body to improve the evidence base for affordable housing need and provision on a consistent basis through the promotion of sub-regional housing assessments.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much social housing grant has been allocated in Devon in each of the last five years; and what proportion was in support of section 106 schemes in each year; [7679]

(2) how much the Housing Corporation has allocated for the provision of affordable housing for each district in Devon in each of the last five years. [7680]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* Expenditure on affordable housing in Devon provided through the Housing Corporation broken down by local authority, in the last five years, is detailed in the following tables. The programmes included in the table are the Approved Development Programme (ADP), the Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG) and Transitional LASHG, the Safer Communities Supported Housing Fund (SCSHF), and the Starter Home Initiative (SHI).

The amount supporting section 106 is only available for 2004–05. The total proportion for Devon is 14 per cent.

Breakdown by local authority in Devon for the last five years

2000–01

£ million

	ADP	LASHG	SCSHF	SHI	Total
East Devon	0.486	0.431	0.000	0.000	0.917
Exeter	2.279	1.017	0.000	0.000	3.296
Mid Devon	0.735	0.546	0.000	0.000	1.280
North Devon	1.052	1.130	0.000	0.000	2.181
Plymouth	3.103	0.235	0.000	0.000	3.339
South Hams	0.446	1.830	0.000	0.000	2.275
Teignbridge	1.618	0.386	0.000	0.000	2.004
Torbay	1.176	0.487	0.000	0.000	1.664
Torridge	0.447	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.450
West Devon	0.513	0.544	0.000	0.000	1.057
Devon Total	11.854	6.609	0.000	0.000	18.462

2001–02

£ million

	ADP	LASHG	SCSHF	SHI	Total
East Devon	0.990	0.587	0.053	0.000	1.630
Exeter	1.438	1.628	0.145	0.000	3.212
Mid Devon	0.592	0.218	0.000	0.000	0.810
North Devon	0.276	0.129	0.127	0.000	0.532
Plymouth	3.754	0.587	0.000	0.000	4.341
South Hams	0.402	1.251	0.000	0.000	1.653
Teignbridge	1.429	0.318	0.000	0.000	1.747
Torbay	1.640	0.308	0.032	0.000	1.980
Torridge	0.424	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.424
West Devon	0.402	0.648	0.000	0.000	1.050
Devon Total	11.347	5.673	0.357	0.000	17.378

2002–03

£ million

	ADP	LASHG	SCSHF	SHI	Total
East Devon	1.075	1.801	0.026	0.000	2.902
Exeter	1.891	1.376	0.873	0.032	4.171
Mid Devon	1.018	0.185	0.000	0.000	1.203
North Devon	1.326	3.115	0.057	0.000	4.498
Plymouth	4.330	0.324	0.000	0.000	4.654
South Hams	0.849	1.644	0.000	0.000	2.493
Teignbridge	0.832	0.342	0.000	0.000	1.174
Torbay	1.593	0.543	0.613	0.011	2.760
Torridge	0.610	0.112	0.022	0.000	0.745
West Devon	0.958	0.795	0.000	0.000	1.753
Devon Total	14.481	10.237	1.591	0.042	26.351

2003–04

£ million

	ADP	LASHG	SCSHF	SHI	Total
East Devon	0.715	2.012	0.143	0.000	2.871
Exeter	3.218	3.198	0.650	0.175	7.241
Mid Devon	0.852	0.000	0.062	0.000	0.914
North Devon	1.501	0.963	0.072	0.000	2.536
Plymouth	8.807	0.000	0.033	0.000	8.840
South Hams	1.466	3.252	0.344	0.000	5.062
Teignbridge	2.280	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.280
Torbay	3.950	0.000	0.565	0.062	4.576
Torridge	0.970	0.000	0.039	0.000	1.009
West Devon	1.673	1.473	0.000	0.000	3.146
Devon Total	25.433	10.898	1.908	0.237	38.476

2004–05

£ million

	ADP	LASHG	SCSHF	SHI	Total
East Devon	0.518	0.256	0.008	0.000	0.781
Exeter	3.147	0.287	0.173	0.021	3.627
Mid Devon	1.778	0.000	0.054	0.000	1.832
North Devon	1.834	0.618	0.136	0.000	2.588
Plymouth	6.203	0.000	0.295	0.000	6.498
South Hams	1.095	0.254	0.000	0.000	1.349
Teignbridge	1.477	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.477
Torbay	1.730	0.000	0.153	0.000	1.882
Torridge	0.388	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.388
West Devon	0.646	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.821
Devon Total	18.815	1.590	0.818	0.021	21.244

Note:
All data analysed by sponsoring local authority.
Source:
Housing Corporation.

Broadband (East Sussex)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress has been made towards targets for broadband access in East Sussex. [7965]

Alun Michael: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today to his question number 7855.

Building Regulations

David Howarth: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what measures he plans to introduce to ensure full compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations; and whether they will include random pressure testing of new homes. [5664]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Government are pursuing the commitments made in the Energy White Paper to raise the energy performance standards in the Building Regulations and to work with building control bodies to see how enforcement can

be improved. After extensive consultations with stakeholders, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have developed proposals for improving technical standards, including sample pressure testing of new homes, and for simplifying the compliance processes. There will also be a programme of dissemination, training and supporting help desks to give every opportunity to become acquainted with the new provisions and so improve compliance.

David Howarth: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what robust standard details he requires under Part L of the Building Regulations for thermal bridging in new homes; and what changes he plans to make to those standards. [5665]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* Builders are not required to use particular details but the guidance in Approved Document L offers the use of robust details as a way of showing compliance. These were developed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with expert assistance and published by The Stationery Office. A new edition is planned to accompany the next amendment to Part L later this year. The new edition will include additional robust details, and the aim is to revise all the details to include more information and to facilitate their electronic transfer into builders' drawings. The accompanying design and construction guidance will also be improved and checklists added to assist compliance.

Council Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average time taken to re-let a local authority dwelling was in each English region in each year since 1997. [2437]

Yvette Cooper: The following table provides estimates for 2002–03 and 2003–04. Data in the form asked for are not available for other years.

Average days to re-let a local authority dwelling

Region	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
East Midlands	50	45
East	39	35
London	41	37
North East	56	50
North West	57	55
South East	38	39
South West	43	44
West Midlands	53	44
Yorkshire and the Humber	59	49
England	51	45

Note:
Approximate estimates because data is not available for all local authorities.
Sources:
HRA Subsidy Base Data returns for 2004–05 and 2005–06; Business Plan Statistical Appendices 2004.

Disabled Facilities Grant

Gregory Barker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received on progress with the review of the disabled facilities grant. [7958]

Yvette Cooper: Representations have been received from 32 hon. Members in the last month. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has also received a number of representations from local authorities and organisations representing disabled people. In relation to progress with the review, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 402–03W.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will recommend the abolition of the means testing of parents of disabled children as part of the disabled facilities grant process, as is currently the case in Northern Ireland and is soon to be the case in Wales. [7124]

Yvette Cooper: The disabled facilities grant programme is subject to an interdepartmental review and a team from Bristol university are currently looking at the operation of the programme including the means test. The review is continuing and Ministers will put forward any proposals for change later in the year.

Fines (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was collected in *(a)* parking fines and *(b)* fines for fly-tipping in each London borough in each year since 1997. [2501]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

(a) The information requested in relation to parking fines for the periods from 1996–97 to 1999–2000 has been made available in the Library of the House. The figures for the periods from 2000–01 are a matter for the Mayor of London.

(b) The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All fines in this period have been issued by the courts and collected by the courts.

Fire Service

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department plans to conduct an impact assessment of the recent changes in fire cover in the Greater London area; and if he will make a statement. [7697]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No. Fire and Rescue Authorities are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan. It is, therefore, for the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to determine appropriate fire cover in its area.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the fire stations that have had a fire engine removed in each of the last 10 years; to which fire station a fire engine was re-located in each case; and whether a fire engine was replaced at each such station within (i) two years, (ii) three years, (iii) four years, (iv) five years and (v) more than six years. [7699]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of fires were caused by accumulations of litter in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [7211]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is collected centrally on fires involving all loose refuse and fires in refuse containers.

The latest figures for the year ending 30 September 2004 show that 143,800 fires, which is 37.5 per cent. of fires attended by the fire and rescue service in England, were refuse fires.

This is 7 per cent. fewer than in the previous year (which included 15 strike days). The majority of these fires (93 per cent.) are classified as secondary fires—not involving property or casualties.

Flood Risk Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* conditions and *(b)* costs will be placed on developers for access to strategic flood risk assessments prepared by (i) the Environment Agency and (ii) local planning authorities. [6893]

Yvette Cooper: Strategic flood risk assessment information will be made available to developers preparing site-specific flood risk assessments. The precise administrative arrangements for access to strategic flood risk assessments are for the authorities undertaking them to determine. The Environment Agency is keen to facilitate the provision of information on flood risk at reasonable cost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list areas for which flood risk assessment data is assessed as being necessary; and which of these data are available to developers. [6894]

Yvette Cooper: Paragraph 62 of planning policy guidance note (PPG)25 sets out the criteria for determining whether a flood risk assessment should accompany an application for planning permission. Some of these relate to the circumstances of the site and some to the flood plain maps prepared by the Environment Agency and provided to local authorities, as specified in paragraph 24 of PPG25. The Environment Agency flood plain maps are available to developers.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* planning authorities and *(b)* the Environment Agency on the preparation of flood risk assessment data. [6895]

Yvette Cooper: Planning policy guidance note (PPG)25 advises those proposing developments in flood risk areas to carry out a flood risk assessment, which should be appropriate to the location, scale and nature of the development and should be submitted with the application. Local planning authorities and the Environment Agency were consulted in 2000 and 2001 on the draft of PPG25 and in autumn 2004 on the question of whether to review it. The Environment Agency was closely involved in drafting PPG25. Within the framework of guidance provided by PPG25, it is for local authorities to discuss with developers and the Environment Agency the data that would be appropriate in an individual flood risk assessment.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his estimate is of the additional cost to a developer of undertaking a flood risk assessment before building a house. [7081]

Yvette Cooper: Flood risk assessments should be proportionate to the location, scale and nature of the development and the apparent type and degree of risk. The cost will be site-specific, reflecting these factors.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Thames Gateway Flood Risk Assessment, covering Canvey Island, will be available. [7076]

Yvette Cooper: The Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership intends to complete its Strategic Flood Risk Assessment work by the end of the 2005–06 financial year.

HIP Energy Reports

Mr. Love: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment has been made of the likely *(a)* switching in use of domestic fuel that will result from the proposed home information pack energy reports and *(b)* environmental effects of the consequential change in external costs. [6302]

Yvette Cooper: The Government do not anticipate that there will be any significant switches in use of domestic fuel resulting directly from the proposed HIP energy reports. The energy reports will primarily provide information to a potential buyer on the energy efficiency of the home in question. The reports will also include recommendations for the cost-effective improvement of the energy performance of the building which if carried out, would have environmental benefits.

Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list guidance and advice sent by his Department to local authorities in the last year on homelessness. [7145]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have issued the following guidance and advice to local authorities:

Housing Quality Network Report: "Local Authorities' Homeless Strategies Evaluation and Good Practice" Published: November 2004.

"Effective Co-operation in Tackling Homelessness: Nomination Agreements and Evictions Guidance" Published: November 2004.

Homelessness and Health Information Sheet Number 3: "Dental services".

Homelessness and Health Information Sheet Number 4: "Hospital discharge".

There was statutory guidance, issued under section 182 of the Housing Act 1996, on section 11 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 (which amends the local connection provisions of the homelessness legislation).

In addition we have published the following documents which are available on our website:

Policy Brief 8: "Homeless Statistics Homeless Statistics March 2004 and Improving the Quality of Hostels and other Forms of Temporary Accommodation"

Policy Brief 9: "Homelessness Strategies : Moving Forward"

Policy Brief 10: "Homelessness Statistics September 2004 and Delivering on the Positive Outcomes"

Policy Brief 11: "Providing More Settled Homes"

A Strategy for Tackling Homelessness: "Sustainable Communities: Settled Homes; Changing Lives"

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment the Government have made of the regulatory impact of their plans for licensing of houses in multiple occupation. [7442]

Yvette Cooper: The Government carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the effect of licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) during the formation of the policy. The report of the assessments were published and made available via the Libraries of the House and placed on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website in December 2003.

The Government will also be publishing later this year further regulatory impact assessments to accompany each of the pieces of secondary legislation needed to implement the licensing of HMOs.

London Boroughs (Communication)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent per 1,000 population on external communication by each London borough in each of the last five years. [7461]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The amount spent per 1,000 population on external communication by each London borough in each of the last five years is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Phone Masts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the planning permissions for mobile phone mast sites that have been refused by the local planning authority but were granted on appeal by *(a)* the Planning Inspectorate and *(b)* the Secretary of State since the last revision of PPG 8. [7411]

Yvette Cooper: PPG 8 was last revised in August 2001.

The Planning Inspectorate does not hold information about mobile phone masts specifically, and it could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

HEALTH

Actrapid Insulin

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the supply of actrapid (basal) insulin; [5666]

(2) if she will discuss with her EU counterparts Novo Novalisk's intention to discontinue the supply of actrapid insulin in the United Kingdom; [5667]

(3) what her most recent estimate is of the prescribing costs of *(a)* animal based insulins, *(b)* actrapid (basal) insulins, *(c)* humalog (analogue) insulins and *(d)* other insulins; [5770]

(4) what her estimate is of the number of diabetics prescribed *(a)* animal based insulins, *(b)* actrapid based insulins, *(c)* analogue insulins and *(d)* other insulins in the last period for which figures are available; [5771]

(5) what steps she has taken to identify alternative *(a)* manufacturers and *(b)* suppliers of the insulin products that Novo Nordisk are proposing to withdraw from the United Kingdom. [5772]

Jane Kennedy: Novo Nordisk has informed the Department that it is planning to discontinue Actrapid Penfill insulin in December 2005. The vial presentation of Actrapid insulin will remain available. We have not sought an alternative supplier for the items being discontinued as there remains a number of different insulins and delivery devices available from various manufacturers. It is up to the clinician, in consultation with the patient, to decide which is most suitable. We are in discussion with Novo Nordisk to ensure a smooth transfer for patients to alternative products. We have no plans to consult with other European governments on Novo Novalisk's intention to discontinue the supply of Actrapid insulin.

We do not know the number of people prescribed either animal or human insulin, however, available information covers the number of prescription items and net ingredient cost of insulin dispensed in the community in England. The figures shown in the table were extracted from the prescription cost analysis system for 2004, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Authority.

Insulin	*Items (million)*	*Net ingredient cost (£ million)*
Animal derived	0.1	3.4
Human analogue	4.1	193.4
Total	4.2	196.8

Ambulance Service

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 794W, on the London Ambulance Service, what representations she has received concerning independent ambulances. [7251]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has received correspondence on this issue from patients' forums, independent ambulance organisations and national health service trusts. We have also received feedback at stakeholder consultation events and informally from NHS colleagues.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 794W, on the London Ambulance Service, when the guidance on ambulance livery will be issued. [7252]

Mr. Byrne: There are already clear rules on the use of the national health service logo and crown badge by third party organisations. The law is similarly clear that green and yellow retro-reflective markings should only be used by NHS ambulance services.

We will communicate over the summer how these existing rules apply to independent ambulance services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the reasons for the change in the number of emergency calls to ambulance services in the last five years. [7459]

Mr. Byrne: The number of emergency calls to ambulance services has increased by around 6 to 7 per cent. a year since 2000–01. During this time, the number of calls per incident has increased. This is largely attributed to greater use of mobile phones.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on restricting provision of medical care to failed asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement. [3864]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are committed to providing protection for those individuals found to be genuinely in need. All applications for asylum are considered individually and on their own merits by the Home Office in line with the United Kingdom's obligations under the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). However, any individual of any nationality who is found by the Home Office and the independent Immigration Appellate Authority not to be in need of asylum or international protection is expected to leave the UK.

Anyone is entitled to receive emergency or immediately necessary treatment to save life or to prevent a condition from becoming life-threatening, where in the clinical opinion of a health professional this is required. In the case of hospital treatment, however, they may be asked to pay for it if they are no longer eligible to receive it free of charge. A failed asylum seeker, who is receiving hospital treatment at the time their status was determined, will continue to receive that course of treatment free of charge until that course of treatment has been completed, or until they leave the country. Failed asylum seekers seeking routine elective hospital treatment will be expected to pay for it in the same way as any other chargeable overseas visitor.

General practices currently have the same discretion to accept or refuse applications from failed asylum seekers to join their lists of national health service patients as they have for applications from other people.

Audiology Services

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress audiology clinics are making towards the Government's target that no one will wait longer than 18 weeks for treatment, including diagnostics, by 2008; [6462]

(2) how she plans to ensure that audiology departments meet the Government's target that no one will wait longer than 18-weeks for their treatment, including diagnostics, by 2008. [6471]

Mr. Byrne: Progress towards meeting the 18-week target will be assessed by monitoring activity and waiting time data against the trajectories in strategic health authorities' (SHAs) local delivery plans. These data returns will for the first time, subject to successful piloting, include activity and waiting times for pure tone audiometry. SHAs are working with primary care trusts to develop their plans.

Care Homes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* private, *(b)* voluntary and *(c)* local authority (i) care homes and (ii) care home places there have been in each year since 1997. [5598]

Mr. Byrne: The table shows the number of care homes and places in England by provider for people aged 18 and over as at 31 March 1997 to 2001.

I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that figures for later years were collected by the National Care Standards Commission, and now CSCI, but comparable details are not available.

Number of care homes and places, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2001, England

Rounded numbers

		Residential			Nursing[1]
	Total	*Local authority*	*Voluntary*	*Private*[2]	*Independent*
Homes					
1997	28,850	2,260	3,850	16,830	5,920
1998	28,950	2,230	3,930	16,610	6,180
1999	28,680	2,070	3,860	16,640	6,110
2000	28,320	2,030	3,950	16,460	5,880
2001	27,480	1,870	3,940	15,980	5,680
Places					
1997	534,410	65,820	59,170	213,140	196,270
1998	553,490	63,980	60,790	223,130	205,590
1999	546,190	59,030	58,720	226,290	202,150
2000	539,240	55,460	60,720	229,720	193,330
2001	528,000	50,860	61,970	228,340	186,830

[1] Nursing home figures include places in general nursing homes, mental nursing homes, private hospitals and clinics.

[2] Includes private homes and small homes.

Notes:

1. Dual registered homes are included under nursing.
2. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the nutritional quality of food in care homes. [7935]

Mr. Byrne: A number of measures and strategies are in place to manage, monitor and screen the quality in care homes.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) regulates care homes in accordance with statutory regulations and national minimum standards to ensure they provide for the needs of their residents. The Care Homes Regulations require homes to provide adequate quantities of suitable, wholesome and nutritious food for service users; and to maintain records of the food provided for service users in sufficient detail to enable inspectors to determine whether the diet is satisfactory, in relation to nutrition and otherwise.

Standard 19 of the national standards for care homes for older people sets out what care homes are expected to do to ensure residents are properly fed.

The CSCI will take swift action where it has concerns about the welfare of residents.

Childhood Development Reviews

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has given to primary care trusts on the ages at which children should receive development reviews. [7649]

Mr. Byrne: Standard one of the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services sets out the key elements of the child health promotion programme, including developmental reviews and other health promotion services, and the ages at which these interventions would normally take.

Commission for Social Care Inspection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received on the proposal to abolish the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [5613]

Mr. Byrne: Right hon. and hon. Members have tabled several questions on this topic recently. In addition, departmental Ministers have held exploratory discussions with both the Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Community Hospitals

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 635W, on community hospitals, whether the decision on which services will be provided by each new community hospital will be made by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* primary care trusts. [6798]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is in the early stages of developing its policy on community hospitals. Preliminary thinking is that the decision on the provision of services in community hospitals will be a joint one, involving the Department, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts working in partnership and informed by the forthcoming public consultation on services outside of hospitals.

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft her Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside her Department. [6952]

Jane Kennedy: There have been no reported incidents of computer hacking or fraud on the Department's information technology (IT) systems either within or outside the Department since 2001–02 year.

The Department does not differentiate between losses and thefts nor do we record whether the theft was by an insider or outsider. The losses of IT equipment recorded since 2001–02 are shown in the table.

Financial year	*Number of incidents*	*Total cost (£)*
2001–02	77	70,500.00
2002–03	81	66,004.00
2003–04	70	56,917.00
2004–05	44	39,877.00

Dentistry

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase access to NHS dentistry in Stroud constituency. [4345]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Cotswold and Vale Primary Care Trust (PCT), which commissions dental services for the Stroud constituency, has received £363,000 in capital grants and £155,000 in dental access money, which should lead to approximately 12,000 new national health service registrations.

One new dental surgery has opened in Stonehouse. In addition, negotiations are under way with two dentists, one in Stonehouse and the other in Cam, regarding expansion of their practices using currently vacant dental chairs, with a view to filling them with dentists recruited through the Department's overseas recruitment programme. The PCT is also currently looking to set up a new two-dentist surgery in the Stroud area.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists are practising in Portsmouth; and how many patients are registered with each. [6007]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at the end of May 2005, there were 75 national health service dentists practising in Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust (PCT) area. Of these, the numbers of patients shown in the table were registered with each practice. Due to data protection rules, the individual dentists cannot be named, but are referred to as dentist 1, dentist 2, etc.

Each dentist in Portsmouth City PCT and the number of patients registered with each as at 31 May 2005

Dentist number	*Number of children registered*	*Number of adults registered*	*Total number registered*
1	859	3,356	4,215
2	657	3,102	3,759
3	756	2,270	3,026
4	743	2,256	2,999
5	563	2,416	2,979
6	676	2,238	2,914
7	658	2,229	2,887
8	896	1,887	2,783
9	681	2,095	2,776
10	641	2,019	2,660
11	706	1,938	2,644
12	526	1,827	2,353
13	382	1,902	2,284
14	527	1,628	2,155
15	525	1,520	2,045
16	447	1,572	2,019
17	480	1,532	2,012
18	387	1,574	1,961
19	382	1,504	1,886
20	515	1,343	1,858
21	390	1,349	1,739
22	353	1,309	1,662
23	324	1,230	1,554
24	332	1,220	1,552
25	387	1,066	1,453
26	369	1,044	1,413

Each dentist in Portsmouth City PCT and the number of patients registered with each as at 31 May 2005

Dentist number	Number of children registered	Number of adults registered	Total number registered
27	356	1,027	1,383
28	331	1,052	1,383
29	356	1,020	1,376
30	379	934	1,313
31	269	1,012	1,281
32	315	917	1,232
33	392	785	1,177
34	789	384	1,173
35	388	759	1,147
36	293	849	1,142
37	410	692	1,102
38	288	775	1,063
39	717	182	899
40	661	143	804
41	520	259	779
42	761	12	773
43	620	151	771
44	174	595	769
45	608	125	733
46	235	383	618
47	145	449	594
48	325	241	566
49	116	383	499
50	181	318	499
51	327	158	485
52	352	124	476
53	417	5	422
54	280	108	388
55	234	123	357
56	116	239	355
57	99	196	295
58	205	77	282
59	65	211	276
60	198	18	216
61	121	79	200
62	119	2	121
63	0	87	87
64	0	54	54
65	14	32	46
66	0	0	0
67	0	0	0
68	0	0	0
69	0	0	0
70	0	0	0
71	0	0	0
72	0	0	0
73	0	0	0
74	0	0	0
75	0	0	0

Notes:
1. The data are snapshot information at the end of each month.
2. The information includes any dentist who had at least one active registration.
3. There are various reasons why a dentist may not have any registrations: in particular, specialists such as orthodontists.
4. It should be understood that personal dental service PDS "registrations" generally have a longer re-registration period than general dental service (GDS) registrations. This means that a patient "registered" under PDS might not have been still registered under GDS, had the dentist remained in GDS.

Departmental Union Representation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trade union learning representatives there are in her Department. [3316]

Jane Kennedy: There are currently no trade union learning representatives in the Department. However, the Department is very positive about this initiative and the trade union side plan to pursue this issue again in the near future.

General Practitioners

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio between the number of general practitioners to population was for each NHS region in the last year for which figures are available. [7063]

Mr. Byrne: The number of general practitioners (GPs), excluding GP retainers and GP registrars, per 100,000 population in each Government office region as at December 2004 is shown in the table.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] by strategic health authority per 100,000 population, as at 31 December 2004—England

Number (headcount)

		All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	Population[2,3]	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population
	England	31,798	49,855,700	64
	North East			
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	751	1,146,900	65
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	927	1,392,400	67
	North West			
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	1,540	2,354,500	65
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	1,177	1,919,000	61
Q14	Greater Manchester	1,526	2,531,000	60
	Yorkshire and the Humber			
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1,037	1,640,800	63
Q23	South Yorkshire	827	1,272,600	65
Q12	West Yorkshire	1,397	2,095,900	67
	East Midlands			
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	894	1,581,500	57
Q24	Trent	1,628	2,670,800	61

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] by strategic health authority per 100,000 population, as at 31 December 2004—England

Number (headcount)

		All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	Population[2,3]	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population
	West Midlands			
Q27	Birmingham and The Black Country	1,401	2,273,400	62
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	879	1,496,000	59
Q28	West Midlands South	974	1,550,500	63
	East of England			
Q02	Bedford and Hertfordshire	1,001	1,614,700	62
Q03	Essex	932	1,629,600	57
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	1,475	2,218,600	66
	London			
Q05	North Central London	811	1,220,200	66
Q06	North East London	921	1,530,800	60
Q04	North West London	1,176	1,814,700	65
Q07	South East London	1,007	1,511,800	67
Q08	South West London	846	1,310,400	65
	South East			
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,135	1,797,100	63
Q18	Kent and Medway	912	1,599,900	57
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	1,644	2,570,800	64
Q16	Thames Valley	1,329	2,112,500	63
	South West			
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	1,619	2,191,200	74
Q22	Somerset and Dorset	886	1,206,900	73
Q21	South West Peninsula	1,146	1,601,200	72

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs , QMS Others and PMS Others.
[2] Population data as at 2003.
[3] Population data is rounded to the nearest 100 for presentational purposes.
Source:
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners in practice were aged *(a)* over 65 and *(b)* over 70 years in each NHS region in the last year for which figures are available. [7064]

Mr. Byrne: The number of general practitioners (GPs), excluding GP retainers and GP registrars, aged between 65 and 69 and 70 and over in each Government office region as at December 2004 is shown in the table.

All general medical practitioners, excluding GP retainers and GP registrars, in England, of which aged 65–69 and 70 and over, as at 31 December 2004

Number (headcount)

		All practitioners (excluding GP retainers and GP registrars)	of which: 65–69	70 and over
		31,798	641	139
	North East			
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	927	12	2
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	751	7	4
	North West			
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	1,177	21	3
Q14	Greater Manchester	1,526	37	9
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	1,540	24	2
	Yorkshire and the Humber			
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1,037	18	3
Q12	West Yorkshire	1,397	34	6
Q23	South Yorkshire	827	18	9
	East Midlands			
Q24	Trent	1,628	24	4
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	894	7	0

All general medical practitioners, excluding GP retainers and GP registrars, in England, of which aged 65–69 and 70 and over, as at 31 December 2004

Number (headcount)

		All practitioners (excluding GP retainers and GP registrars)	*of which: 65–69*	*70 and over*
	West Midlands			
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	879	11	2
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	1,401	69	10
Q28	West Midlands South	974	8	8
	East of England			
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	1,475	11	1
Q02	Bedford and Hertfordshire	1,001	20	3
Q03	Essex	932	29	8
	London			
Q04	North West London	1,176	51	10
Q05	North Central London	811	43	8
Q06	North East London	921	56	21
Q07	South East London	1,007	43	9
Q08	South West London	846	25	10
	South East			
Q16	Thames Valley	1,329	15	2
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,135	4	0
Q18	Kent and Medway	912	25	2
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	1,644	17	1
	South West			
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	1,619	6	1
Q21	South West Peninsula	1,146	5	0
Q22	Somerset and Dorset	886	1	1

Note:
General medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars, includes contracted GPs, GMS others and PMS others.
Source:
NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* formal and *(b)* self-construct general practitioner trainee places have been offered (i) in total and (ii) in each deanery in England in each year since 1997. [7455]

Mr. Byrne: Decisions about how many general practitioner trainee places are to be offered each year are made locally by postgraduate deaneries, in consultation with their strategic health authorities. This information is not held centrally.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been made available for self construct general practitioner registrar training in *(a)* the Eastern Deanery, *(b)* Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and *(c)* England in 2005–06; how much was made available in 2004–05; and if she will make a statement. [6195]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* Funding for trainee general practitioners is part of the overall national health service training budgets allocated to strategic health authorities. The amounts that postgraduate deaneries actually receive is determined locally in the light of local priorities and national work force targets. This information is not held centrally.

HIV/AIDS

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what categories of people *(a)* are and *(b)* are not entitled to free testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS on the NHS; [4216]

(2) to what categories of people it is planned to give access to free testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS; and whether those not resident in the UK will be given such access. [3744]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answers 13 and 15 June 2005]:* Anyone who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is eligible to receive national health service hospital treatment free of charge (subject to any statutory charges that may apply, such as prescription charges).

The national health service (charges to overseas visitors) regulations 1989, as amended, specify that anyone who is not ordinarily resident in the UK must be treated as an overseas visitor, and is liable to pay for any NHS hospital treatment received unless they meet one of the exemption criteria in the regulations. One such exemption covers the initial diagnostic testing for HIV/AIDS and any associated counselling, so that these are free to all irrespective of residency status. Subsequent treatment, however, should the test prove positive, is not free to all and an overseas visitor who is not otherwise

exempt under one of the other criteria is expected to pay for any HIV/AIDS treatment they receive. This has been the case since these regulations first came into force.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily number of general and acute beds open overnight bed was in each of the last three years for (i) England and (ii) each NHS trust; and what the bed occupancy rate was. [7198]

Mr. Byrne: The data requested are available on the Department's website at: www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/beds_open_overnight.htm.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily cost of *(a)* an intensive care and *(b)* a high dependency bed is. [7614]

Mr. Byrne: The national average cost of an occupied bed day in a discrete critical care unit is available in the annual reference costs publication.

The national schedule of reference costs for 2004 (the latest year available) shows that for activity undertaken within an national health service trust in England, the costs of an occupied bed day in different types of discrete critical care units are shown in the following table.

£

Unit type	*National average cost per occupied bed day*
Intensive therapy unit/intensive care unit	1,328
Burns intensive care unit	1,039
Neurosurgical intensive care unit	1,017
Spinal injuries intensive care unit	779
Renal intensive care unit	370
Cardiac intensive care unit	1,025
High dependency unit	584
Paediatric intensive care unit	1,702
Neonatal intensive care unit—level 1	838
Neonatal intensive care unit—level 2	560

A copy of the reference costs publication is available in the Library.

Hospital-acquired Infections

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* advice is given on and *(b)* precautions are taken against the spread of MRSA in ambulances; and if she will make a statement. [6699]

Jane Kennedy: All national health service organisations, including ambulance trusts, should have systems in place to minimise the risk to patients from health care associated infections as required by Standards for Better Health (July 2004). Infection control policies and any particular precautions for reducing the spread of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) are a matter for individual trusts. Advice on appropriate precautions to reduce the spread of infection has been published by the Department in the Health Service Circular 2000/02 and in "Winning Ways—Working together to reduce Hospital Acquired Infection in England" (December 2003).

The Ambulance Service Association published "Infection Prevention and Control: Managing Healthcare Associated Infection and Control of Serious Communicable Diseases", in June 2004. The guidance was reviewed recently by the Health Protection Agency, the National Patient Safety Agency and the Department's inspector of microbiology and is deemed to be suitable and sufficient, if used with robust auditing, to control MRSA and other health care associated infections. Additionally, the training and common core syllabus for ambulance personnel covers infection control, including reference to MRSA.

Hospitals (North-East)

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cleaners in *(a)* Sunderland Royal Hospital, *(b)* Hartlepool University Hospital and *(c)* Durham University Hospital are employed by (i) the NHS and (ii) private contractors. [6881]

Mr. Byrne: Information is not gathered centrally on the number of cleaners employed by private contractors. The table shows the available data for the trusts concerned.

National health service hospital and community health services: Hotel, property and estates support workers in specified trusts as at 30 September 2004

		Headcount
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	RLN	393
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RXP	356
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	RVW	303
Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	RVX	44

Note:
Hotel, property and estates support workers include maintenance and works staff working in areas such as laundry, catering, domestic services and gardens.
Source:
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

Identity Cards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of equipping NHS premises with identity card readers. [6732]

Jane Kennedy: As part of the broader Home Office-led identification cards programme, the Department is considering the costs and benefits of using ID cards within the national health service, including the cost of card readers. No decisions on the deployment, and hence the costs, of such readers have been made.

Midwifery Vacancies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwife vacancies there are in each *(a)* London primary care trust and *(b)* London strategic health authority. [7463]

Jane Kennedy: There are no current midwife vacancies recorded by primary care trust (PCT), as PCTs generally do not employ midwifery staff.

Information showing the latest figures available for midwifery vacancy rates and staff in post for London national health service trusts and strategic health authorities has been placed in the Library.

Ministerial Powers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will list the reserve powers she holds to take control of *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* hospital trusts, *(c)* ambulance trusts, *(d)* strategic health authorities and *(e)* mental health trusts; which section of the relevant legislation gives her each such power; under what circumstances each can be activated by her; and if she will make a statement; [6649]

(2) on how many occasions her reserve powers to take control of *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* hospital trusts, *(c)* ambulance trusts, *(d)* strategic health authorities and *(e)* mental health trusts have been used; if she will list the institutions involved; and if she will make a statement. [6650]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The legal powers that enable the Department to require individual trusts to change their senior management are contained within Section 13 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001. This states that the Secretary of State may make an intervention order if she is not satisfied that a national health service body is performing one or more of its functions adequately or at all, or that there are significant failings in the way that the body is being run. The order would specify the extent to which changes to senior management would have to be made.

The legal powers contained within Section 13 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 that enable the Secretary of State for Health to require individual organisations to make senior management changes have not had to be used yet.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding has been allocated to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in each year since its inception; [4833]

(2) what budget was allocated to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence in each year since its inception. [5686]

Jane Kennedy: The funding allocated to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) by the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government is show in the table. The figures also include the allocation to NICE's funding for capital charges.

	NICE running cost budget (£)
1999–2000	10,511,000
2000–01	11,158,000
2001–02	12,613,000
2002–03	14,771,000
2003–04	17,494,000
2004–05	19,391,000
2005–06	29,298,000

Notes:
1. Figures for 1999–2000 to 204–05 relate to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, the predecessor of NICE.
2. The figure for 2005–06 reflects the incorporation of functions of the former Health Development Agency and the transfer of funding for the three confidential inquiries to the National Patient Safety Agency.

National Service Framework for Older People

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made against the milestones set in Standard 7 of the national service framework for older people. [6399]

Mr. Byrne: The Healthcare Commission is currently looking at progress in implementing the national service framework (NSF) for older people. There will be a particular focus on mental health services for older people. The Healthcare Commission's report will be published later in the year.

The Department's national clinical directors for older people's services and mental health services, Professor Louis Appleby and Professor Ian Philp, will shortly be launching a vision for the future of older people's mental health services, outlining the key components of a model service and building on the service developments the NSF for older people has initiated.

NHS Acute Hospital Trusts

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS acute hospital trusts have financial deficits; and what the deficit is in each case. [7012]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations are available is 2003–04. The financial position for all NHS trusts with deficits is shown in the table.

£000

NHS trust name	*2003–04 deficit position*
Addenbrooke's NHS Trust	(921)
Airedale NHS Trust	(1,448)
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	(4,398)
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey MH NHS Trust	(924)
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	(851)
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hosps NHS Trust	(929)
Brighton and Sussex Univ Hosps NHS Trust	(7,912)
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(5,237)
Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Trust	(1,689)
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	(179)
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	(1,880)
East Kent Community NHS Trust	(225)
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	(3,934)
East Sussex County NHS Trust	(1,025)
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	(1,787)
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	(5,843)
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust	(524)
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	(5,014)
Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	(1,727)
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	(18)
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	(1,404)
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	(1,197)
Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust	(5,358)
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	(309)
Local Health Partnerships NHS Trust	(489)
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	(8,968)
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	(163)
Mid Staffordshire Gen Hospitals NHS Trust	(509)
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(18,637)
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	(3,172)
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	(4,133)

£000

NHS trust name	2003–04 deficit position
North Middlesex University Hosp NHS Trust	(989)
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	(3,099)
North West Surrey MH NHS Partnership NHS Trust	(1,261)
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	(4,922)
Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust	(309)
Papworth Hospital NHS Trust	(252)
Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust	(969)
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	(7,753)
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	(495)
Rob Jones and A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	(2,314)
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	(5,845)
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	(961)
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	(1,549)
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	(1,968)
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	(7,612)
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hosps NHS Trust	(1,593)
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	(791)
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	(1,712)
Southampton University Hosps NHS Trust	(5,418)
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	(650)
St. Mary's NHS Trust	(503)
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	(4,149)
Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	(229)
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	(963)
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	(3,572)
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	(744)
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	(1,057)
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	(519)
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	(1,369)
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	(2,501)
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	(1,514)
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	(3,400)
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	(12,801)
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	(27)

Source:

2003–04 summarised accounts.

NHS Finances

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the deficit or surplus at year end for 2004–05 for *(a)* the NHS in England, *(b)* each strategic health authority, *(c)* each NHS trust and *(d)* each primary care trust. [5782]

Mr. Byrne: The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2003–04. Information showing the financial position for the NHS in England—strategic health authorities (SHAs), NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs)—has been placed in the Library.

Audited information in respect of the 2004–05 financial position of all SHAs, PCTs and NHS trusts will be published in their individual annual accounts and will be available centrally later this year.

NHS Patients (Overseas Treatment)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients were treated abroad in each of the last five years; and in what countries. [4621]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under patient choice, overseas treatment direct referral scheme approximately 890 patients had been referred for treatment since 2003. In addition, primary care trusts may also contract with healthcare providers abroad on an individual needs basis but this information is not collected by the Department.

Data on United Kingdom patients treated in the European Economic Area under the E111/112 schemes are not available in the format requested.

Physiotherapy

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she is taking to ensure adequate retention to fill senior physiotherapy posts; and if she will make a statement. [8139]

Mr. Byrne: It is the responsibility of local national health service employers and strategic health authorities to ensure there are sufficient numbers of physiotherapists to meet service needs. The Department is working closely with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the NHS work force review team and NHS organisations to ensure that local managers have access to a range of strategies across recruitment and retention, commissioning and skill mix.

Radiographers

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* radiographers of all grades and *(b)* radiographer trainees were employed in the NHS on average in (i) 1996, (ii) 2000 and (iii) 2004; and what estimate she has made of the numbers who were working on contracts requiring less than the standard 37.5 hours in 2004. [6317]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the table.

The standard hours for radiographers employed under Whitley Council terms and conditions are 35 hours. "Agenda for Change" replaces these arrangements and, under the new terms and conditions, the standard hours for all staff are 37.5. Implementation of "Agenda for Change" started in December 2004.

National health service hospital and community health services: Radiography staff in England by area of work, level and each specified contract as at 30 September in specified years

Headcount

	1996	Of which: part-time	2000	Of which: part-time	2004	Of which: part-time
Total Radiography staff	12,882	4,091	14,190	5,118	16,921	6,604
Radiography (Diagnostic)	11,525	3,804	12,649	4,765	14,932	6,019
Qualified staff	10,265	3,207	11,036	3,953	12,147	4,795
Consultant Therapist Scientist	n/a	n/a	n a	n a	4	1
Manager	114	8	155	12	179	18

National health service hospital and community health services: Radiography staff in England by area of work, level and each specified contract as at 30 September in specified years

Headcount

	1996	Of which: part-time	2000	Of which: part-time	2004	Of which: part-time
Therapist	9,647	3,015	10,271	3,723	11,954	4,773
Technician	487	182	595	216	0	0
Tutor	17	2	15	2	10	3
Non-qualified staff	1,260	597	1,613	812	2,785	1,224
Assistant Practitioner	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	75	14
Student/Trainee	47	18	19	2	80	8
Helper/Assistant	1,213	579	1,594	810	2,630	1,202
Radiography (Therapeutic)	1,357	287	1,541	353	1,989	585
Qualified staff	1,308	262	1,453	323	1,753	510
Consultant Therapist/Scientist	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0
Manager	13	1	19	0	30	3
Therapist	1,295	261	1,434	323	1,722	507
Non-qualified staff	49	25	88	30	236	75
Assistant Practitioner	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	2
Student/Trainee	0	0	1	0	4	2
Helper/Assistant	49	25	87	30	219	71

n/a = Not applicable.

Source:
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Residential Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults were placed in residential care out of area in each of the last five years; and what proportion of state funded adult placements this represented in each year. [7200]

Mr. Byrne: The number and percentage of residential and nursing care residents funded by councils with social service responsibilities (CSSRs) placed outside their CSSR in England, 2000 to 2004, is shown in the table.

Number and percentage of residential and nursing care residents funded by CSSRs placed outside their CSSR in England, 2000–04—England, as at 31 March

Rounded numbers

	Total		Residential care[1]		Nursing care[2]	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[5]
2000	43,800	17	29,700	16	14,100	19
2001	44,000	17	29,800	16	14,100	20
2002	46,700	18	31,800	17	14,900	20
2003	47,700	17	31,800	15	15,900	20
2004	49,100	18	33,700	17	15,500	20

[1] Includes local authority staffed, voluntary and private care homes and small or unstaffed homes.
[2] General and mental nursing homes only.
[3] As a percentage of all CSSR supported residents.
[4] As a percentage of all CSSR supported residents in residential care.
[5] As a percentage of all CSSR supported residents in nursing care.

Note:
Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Source:
SR1 form.

Rural Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will amend the health service's funding formula to take account of costs incurred in delivering health services to sparsely populated rural areas. [7763]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The funding formula provides the best available measure of health need in all areas. In calculating health need in rural areas, it takes account of the effects of access, transport and poverty.

The advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA), which is made up of national health service managers, academics and general practitioners, oversees the weighted capitation formula. ACRA has looked at the issue of rurality on many occasions and has recommended that no further adjustment is needed to reflect rural areas. ACRA will continue to oversee the development of the formula, and look to ensure equity in resource allocation.

Scanner (North Durham)

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made by Alliance Medical in identifying a suitable site for a scanner in North Durham; [7553]

(2) who Alliance Medical has consulted during their search for an appropriate site for a scanner in North Durham. [7554]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 27 June 2005]:* Alliance Medical Ltd. (AML) has been working alongside County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority's (SHA) assistant director of performance to establish an appropriate site for the mobile unit. I understand that both AML and the trust radiology department consider the site suitable and that they are awaiting confirmation from the SHA that the Consett site will be commissioned.

Sexual Health

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the capacity of sexual health clinics; and if she will make a statement. [7517]

Caroline Flint: The Department has commissioned the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health to undertake a two-year national review of genito urinary medicine (GUM) services, which will help to assess capacity issues and disseminate good practice. This began in autumn 2004 and will cover all GUM clinics. Visits to services are already under way in nine strategic health authorities, and reports are being fed back to the primary care trusts as the review proceeds.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects and publishes data on waiting times for GUM services. The HPA have published two reports to date, for May and November 2004, and these are available from their website at www.hpa.org.uk

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that the full amount of funding allocated to sexual health reform in the Public Health White Paper is spent on sexual health and HIV services. [7758]

Caroline Flint: Improved sexual health performance management has been introduced to ensure that the new investment of £300 million over three years, provided through the Public Health White Paper, achieves the desired outcomes. In addition to the public service agreement target to reduce the under-18 conception rate by 50 per cent., by 2010 as a part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health, primary care trusts must now include sexual health in their local delivery plans. These plans must include measures to achieve improved genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic waiting times, reduced gonorrhoea rates and improved uptake of Chlamydia screening. In addition, the Department has commissioned the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health to undertake a national review of GUM services, which is now under way. A national audit of contraceptive services is also in preparation and we are working to strengthen the monitoring role of strategic health authorities. Data collection is being improved, to provide information against which performance can be measured, including the Health Protection Agency's published data on GUM waiting times.

Suicide

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to reduce the incidence of suicide in people aged *(a)* 50 years or over and *(b)* 65 years or over. [6397]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The suicide prevention strategy annual report of progress 2004 sets out the actions that are under way to reduce the number of suicides in the general population. Although there are no specific actions under way targeting those 50 years or over, many of the measures in place will help prevent suicides among all age groups.

The our healthier nation target is to reduce the overall death rate from suicide and undetermined injury from a baseline rate of 9.2 deaths per 100,000 population in 1995-97 to 7.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 2009-11. The latest available data for the three years 2001-03 show a rate of 8.6 deaths per 100,000 population—a reduction of 6 per cent. from the baseline. The latest data in the 50 and over age group show that this rate has fallen from the baseline rate of 10.6 deaths per 100,000 population to 10.1 deaths, a fall of 5 per cent. over the period. For the 65 and over age group the rate has fallen from the baseline rate of 10.1 deaths per 100,000 population to 8.91 deaths, a fall of 11.4 per cent. over the period.

Taxis

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department has spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [6513]

Jane Kennedy: The table shows the amounts the Department spent on its central contract for taxis.

	Amount (£000)
2000-01	270
2001-02	312
2002-03	337
2003-04	403
2004-05	550

Other taxi fares may be claimed through staff expenses, but this information cannot be made available without disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people by Government office region were rejected as potential adopters because they were overweight in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [7879]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Adult Literacy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the level of adult literacy in each London borough. [7474]

Bill Rammell: The "Skills for Life Survey: A national needs and impact survey of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills" (DfES, October 2003) provides the latest estimates of literacy levels across England. The survey assessed the literacy, numeracy and ICT skills of around 8,000 adults aged 16 and above in England.

The findings for the London boroughs are shown in the table. The proportion of adults with literacy skills below level 1 varies from 38 per cent. in Newham to 4 per cent. in the City of London. The assessment levels correspond to the new literacy and numeracy core curriculum and National Standards: Level 1 is broadly equivalent to a lower grade GCSE (grade D-G) and Level 2 to a higher grade GCSE (grade A*-C).

A copy of the survey report is available in the House of Commons Library and on the DfES website: www.dfes.gov.uk

Adult Literacy levels across London drawn from the Skills for Life Survey[1]

Literacy	Total entry level		Level 1 skills		Level 2 skills	
	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
Barking and Dagenham	19,340	19	47,690	47	33,800	34
Barnet	20,670	10	83,250	41	99,720	49
Bexley	8,695	6	71,530	52	57,550	42
Brent	34,400	19	62,360	35	82,950	46
Bromley	20,500	11	60,000	32	105,500	57
Camden	9,210	7	47,490	35	78,960	58
City of London	215	4	1,560	30	3,495	66
Croydon	27,500	13	96,410	45	90,290	42
Ealing	26,980	13	86,730	42	91,420	45
Enfield	26,500	15	75,510	43	74,310	42
Greenwich	22,380	16	61,070	44	54,950	40
Hackney	24,520	18	46,430	34	64,410	48
Hammersmith and Fulham	7,515	6	43,100	36	68,440	57
Haringey	26,620	18	49,230	33	73,470	49
Harrow	17,440	13	53,390	40	63,680	47
Havering	12,730	9	61,330	44	65,670	47
Hillingdon	22,870	15	55,600	36	76,080	49
Hounslow	21,400	15	58,430	41	63,380	44
Islington	9,395	8	48,720	40	64,290	53
Kensington and Chelsea	5,620	5	34,920	31	71,580	64
Kingston upon Thames	8,940	9	31,320	32	57,090	59
Lambeth	22,200	12	70,250	37	95,940	51
Lewisham	25,440	15	60,160	36	81,900	49
Merton	11,870	9	51,700	41	63,190	50
Newham	59,900	38	44,170	28	53,330	34
Redbridge	23,750	16	63,720	42	65,550	43
Richmond upon Thames	8,990	8	31,210	27	74,420	65
Southwark	30,740	19	57,010	35	77,500	47
Sutton	14,100	12	39,350	34	61,880	54
Tower Hamlets	24,240	18	48,300	37	58,680	45
Waltham Forest	22,690	16	66,510	46	55,920	39
Wandsworth	10,360	6	58,730	31	118,000	63
Westminster	12,290	10	41,060	32	75,440	59

[1] *Source:* DfES, 2003

Arson

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many arson attacks there were on schools in England in 2004. [7355]

Jacqui Smith: The most recent data published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is for the year ending 30 September 2004. In that year there were a total of 688 reported deliberate fires in schools in England.

Behaviour Improvement Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Government are spending in 2005–06 on behaviour and attendance-related activities and projects. [7705]

Jacqui Smith: Schools and local authorities use their core funding to varying degrees to support behaviour and attendance, but the amounts spent on these activities are not separately identified. In addition to these sums, the Government make available specific funding—through the Standards Fund or through direct grant support, earmarked for behaviour and attendance related activities. In the 2005–06 financial year, this funding is expected to amount to about £310 million through the Behaviour Improvement Programme, the Learning Mentor and Learning Support Unit strands of Excellence in Cities, and the Behaviour and Attendance strands of the Primary and Secondary National Strategies.

Class Sizes

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average class size in *(a)* primary and junior schools and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) West Sussex, (ii) Kent, (iii) Durham, (iv) the East Riding of Yorkshire and (v) each English county was in each of the last eight years. [7915]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is shown in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]*: average class size*[2]
Position as at January each year: 1998 to 2005 (provisional)—
by each English county local education authority and East Riding of Yorkshire local education authority

	Classes taught by one teacher							
	1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary
West Sussex	27.0	21.6	27.2	21.4	27.3	21.8	26.9	22.2
Kent[4]	28.2	20.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent[5]	—	—	28.1	20.8	27.7	21.0	27.4	21.3
Durham	28.1	22.3	27.2	22.6	26.6	22.0	26.1	22.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	28.7	21.6	28.3	22.1	27.4	22.0	27.3	21.8

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: average class size[2]
Position as at January each year: 1998 to 2005 (provisional)—
by each English county local education authority and East Riding of Yorkshire local education authority

	Classes taught by one teacher							
	1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary
Bedfordshire	27.0	22.4	26.7	22.3	26.1	22.6	25.2	22.5
Buckinghamshire	28.1	21.0	27.8	21.6	26.6	22.2	26.4	21.6
Cambridgeshire[4]	28.5	22.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire[5]	—	—	28.7	22.8	28.0	23.3	27.5	23.5
Cheshire[4]	27.2	21.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire[5]	—	—	27.4	21.3	26.8	21.0	26.3	21.0
Cornwall	27.6	22.4	27.9	22.3	27.3	22.6	26.5	22.6
Cumbria	26.2	21.1	25.8	21.0	25.2	21.3	25.0	21.1
Derbyshire	29.5	22.2	28.2	22.4	28.3	22.5	27.3	22.2
Devon[4]	28.0	21.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon[5]	—	—	26.7	22.0	26.5	22.4	26.5	22.5
Dorset	27.5	22.5	27.0	22.0	26.4	22.6	26.1	22.8
East Sussex	28.3	21.4	28.7	22.1	28.2	22.1	28.2	22.3
Essex[4]	27.6	21.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex[5]	—	—	27.7	21.6	27.4	22.0	26.9	21.9
Gloucestershire	27.5	21.7	27.5	21.2	27.3	21.4	26.3	21.4
Hampshire	28.3	22.4	28.2	22.7	28.0	22.9	27.5	22.9
Hertfordshire	27.2	20.2	27.1	20.6	27.1	20.8	26.9	21.0
Lancashire[4]	28.9	22.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire[5]	—	—	28.2	22.4	27.7	22.7	27.3	22.6
Leicestershire	26.9	22.3	26.7	22.4	26.7	22.8	26.3	23.2
Lincolnshire	27.0	20.3	27.3	20.6	27.3	21.2	26.6	21.4
Norfolk	26.4	20.2	25.9	20.4	25.9	21.0	25.4	21.2
North Yorkshire	26.8	21.0	26.6	21.2	25.8	21.1	25.3	21.1
Northamptonshire	27.3	21.4	27.3	21.5	26.8	21.6	25.9	21.5
Northumberland	27.3	23.0	26.4	23.0	25.4	22.6	24.9	22.4
Nottinghamshire[4]	28.8	21.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire[5]	—	—	28.4	21.8	27.8	22.0	27.2	22.0
Oxfordshire	27.5	22.0	27.1	22.1	26.8	22.6	25.9	22.4
Shropshire[4]	27.3	22.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shropshire[5]	—	—	26.9	21.6	26.0	21.6	25.3	22.2
Somerset	27.8	23.9	27.9	23.9	27.6	23.6	26.9	23.9
Staffordshire	27.4	22.3	26.7	22.3	26.6	22.4	25.9	21.9
Suffolk	25.0	20.8	24.9	20.8	24.9	21.1	24.7	21.4
Surrey	26.7	21.6	26.9	22.2	27.0	22.3	26.8	22.5
Warwickshire	28.5	21.9	27.6	21.7	27.5	21.7	26.7	22.0
Wiltshire	27.2	21.3	27.3	22.0	26.7	21.9	26.3	21.7
Hereford and Worcester[4]	26.7	22.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire[5]	—	—	27.0	22.3	26.8	22.2	26.2	22.0

	2002		2003		2004		2005 (provisional)	
	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary
West Sussex	26.1	22.0	26.1	22.1	26.4	22.0	26.5	22.1
Kent[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent[5]	27.2	21.0	27.0	21.1	26.9	21.1	26.6	21.0
Durham	25.3	21.9	25.1	21.6	25.1	21.8	25.0	21.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	26.6	22.2	26.4	22.2	26.3	21.6	26.0	21.9
Bedfordshire	24.6	22.2	24.6	22.0	24.4	22.0	24.6	22.2
Buckinghamshire	25.5	22.1	25.7	21.8	25.6	21.4	25.5	21.5
Cambridgeshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire[5]	27.1	23.0	27.1	22.8	27.1	23.1	26.9	23.1
Cheshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire[5]	25.6	21.2	25.8	21.1	25.8	21.3	25.7	21.2
Cornwall	26.3	22.4	26.0	22.4	26.2	22.3	26.1	22.4
Cumbria	24.5	20.7	24.5	20.8	24.7	20.7	24.6	21.2
Derbyshire	27.0	22.3	26.9	21.9	27.0	22.1	26.7	22.0
Devon[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon[5]	25.4	22.2	25.7	22.4	25.8	22.2	25.8	21.8
Dorset	25.4	22.7	25.5	22.0	25.2	22.0	25.4	22.0
East Sussex	27.6	21.9	27.5	21.8	27.5	21.9	27.6	21.8
Essex[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex[5]	26.5	21.9	26.6	21.8	26.7	21.9	26.6	22.0
Gloucestershire	25.4	21.9	25.3	21.9	25.7	21.4	26.0	20.7
Hampshire	27.1	22.9	27.2	22.8	27.2	22.7	27.2	22.8
Hertfordshire	26.9	20.9	26.6	20.9	26.6	20.8	26.6	20.8
Lancashire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	2002		2003		2004		2005 (provisional)	
	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary	Primary[3]	Secondary
Lancashire[5]	26.7	22.4	26.5	22.5	26.4	22.6	26.3	22.2
Leicestershire	25.9	22.7	26.4	22.5	26.4	22.6	26.2	22.4
Lincolnshire	26.0	21.3	26.1	21.4	26.2	21.5	26.3	21.3
Norfolk	25.1	20.7	25.1	21.0	25.5	20.9	25.8	21.5
North Yorkshire	24.6	20.6	24.5	20.6	24.4	20.8	24.5	20.5
Northamptonshire	25.5	21.8	25.7	21.9	25.9	21.4	25.9	21.4
Northumberland	24.5	22.6	24.7	22.4	25.0	22.1	24.5	22.0
Nottinghamshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire[5]	26.8	21.5	26.9	21.5	26.7	21.5	26.7	21.2
Oxfordshire	25.1	22.1	24.9	22.0	25.2	21.5	25.5	21.3
Shropshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shropshire[5]	25.6	22.3	25.6	22.0	25.9	22.2	26.6	21.8
Somerset	26.0	23.5	26.2	23.5	26.1	23.6	25.9	23.3
Staffordshire	25.2	22.0	25.8	21.8	25.9	21.7	26.0	21.5
Suffolk	24.6	21.3	24.5	21.4	24.5	21.8	24.6	21.8
Surrey	26.4	22.0	26.3	22.1	26.3	22.3	26.7	22.5
Warwickshire	26.4	22.0	26.3	21.9	26.1	21.7	26.0	21.5
Wiltshire	26.1	21.9	25.8	22.2	25.9	21.8	25.8	21.6
Hereford and Worcester[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire[5]	25.8	22.4	25.6	22.4	25.8	22.2	25.7	21.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[3] Includes junior schools.
[4] Before Local Government Reorganisation.
[5] After Local Government Reorganisation.
Source:
Annual Schools' Census

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft her Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside her Department. [7188]

Bill Rammell: The number of cases of computer hacking detected in the Department for Education and Skills was nil in 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04. There was one case of computer hacking in 2004–05 which was perpetrated by an outsider. The number of cases of fraud detected was three in 2001–02 and two in 2002–03. All were perpetrated by persons outside the Department. There was no fraud, internal or external, in 2003–04 or 2004–05. The number of cases of computer theft detected was nine in 2001–02, six in 2002–03 all perpetrated by insiders, 23 in 2003–04 of which 22 were perpetrated by insiders and one by persons outside the Department and 14 in 2004–05—all were perpetrated by insiders.

Education (South Devon)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people are expected to be on the Prince's Trust Teams programme run by Dartington Tech in this financial year; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement on education funding in South Devon. [6262]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* The number of young people on Prince's Trust Teams in programmes run by Dartington Tech is as follows.

	Number
2002–03	195
2003–04	175
2004–05	215

Devon and Cornwall Learning and Skills Council have set out specific priorities for the coming year, in line with national and regional activities. These include ensuring access to education and training opportunities for 16 to 18-year-olds; increasing the take-up of apprenticeships; tackling basic literacy and numeracy problems; and providing first-time Level 2 opportunities.

In addition, the local LSC has a significant range of co-financed (European Social Fund) projects tackling skills shortages and addressing issues of social inclusion on top of activities funded from mainstream resources.

Taken together, this provides a significant response to the learning and skills needs in the local LSC area.

Educational Psychologists

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans she has to increase the supply of educational psychologists; [7853]

(2) what progress she is making in her consultation on the role of educational psychologists; [7854]

(3) how many vacancies there were for educational psychologists in England in *(a)* April 2004 and *(b)* April 2005. [7963]

Maria Eagle: Decisions on the recruitment, retention or deployment of educational psychologists (EPs) are matters for local authorities as employers to determine in light of local circumstances and available resources.

The terms of reference for the proposed review of the functions and contribution of EPs are currently being developed in consultation with representatives of the local authority employers. Subject to any points arising from these contacts, we would expect to invite tenders for the work shortly.

Vacancy information for EPs is collected in January of each year. In 2004 there were 113 vacant full-time permanent posts and 2,100 full-time equivalent EPs in service. Provisional estimates indicate that there were 100 vacant full-time permanent posts in 2005 and 2,160 in service. Posts were regarded as vacant where there was no permanent appointee and where they were advertised prior to the survey date.

Family Resolutions Project

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimates her Department had made of the number of likely participants prior to the setting up of the Family Resolutions Project; [4686]

(2) what the estimated costs of running the Family Resolutions Project are; [4687]

(3) how many parents have taken part in the Family Resolutions Pilot Project to date; and how many have accepted mediation services as part of the project. [4688]

Maria Eagle *[pursuant to the reply, 15 June 2005, Official Report, c. 483W]:* Confirmed expenditure on the Family Resolutions Pilot Project is £190,628, up to 31 May 2005. This replaces the previous figure given of £173,669 for spend to 14 June 2005. Costs for June cannot yet be confirmed.

Foster Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total cost was of the most expensive external foster care placement in each Government Office region in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [7733]

Maria Eagle: Information about the cost of individual placements is not collected centrally.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average cost per child of external foster care for local authorities was in each Government office region in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [7880]

Maria Eagle: The average gross weekly expenditure to local authorities, per looked after child, of foster care provided by others from 2001–02 to 2003–04 is set out in the table:

£000

Year ending	Average gross weekly expenditure per looked after child in foster care provided by others March 2002	Average gross weekly expenditure per looked after child in foster care provided by others (including respite and short term placements and placed for adoption) March 2003	March 2004
North East	1,031	696	808
North West	774	579	652
South East	905	973	933
East Midlands	1,536	757	832
East	748	693	686
South West	695	848	744
West Midlands	695	727	790
Yorkshire and the Humber	783	592	797
London	626	817	791

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total expenditure on external foster care by local authorities was in each Government office region in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [7881]

Maria Eagle: The gross total cost to local authorities for children looked after in foster care placements provided by others from 2001–02 to 2003–04 is shown in the table:

Gross total cost for children looked after in foster care provided by others

£000

	Year ending 31 March 2002	2003	2004
North East	5,806	9,216	10,815
North West	13,713	18,901	25,802
South East	17,424	25,874	32,380
East Midlands	7,878	8,068	11,545
East	13,678	21,759	27,585
South West	10,056	12,872	17,431
West Midlands	30,614	31,198	34,220
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,398	10,539	20,022
London	71,292	94,749	104,734

Milton Keynes Academy

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the implications of the withdrawal from the Milton Keynes academy project of Global Education Management Systems for the academy's ability to deliver future academy projects. [7432]

Jacqui Smith: Global Education Management Systems (GEMS) supports the aims and the ethos of the Academies' Programme and has a proven track record in supporting and managing schools. My officials are continuing their discussions with GEMS and expect to identify suitable academy proposals which would benefit from GEMS' support and experience.

New Schools

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were built in each English county in each of the last eight years. [7913]

Jacqui Smith: The construction of new schools is decided upon by each local authority in accordance with its asset management plan. Figures on how many new

(a) primary and *(b)* secondary schools were built in each English county in each of the last eight years are not held centrally.

Postgraduate Science Degrees

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* UK, *(b)* EU and *(c)* non-EU students are studying science postgraduate degrees in England in 2004–05; and what proportion of all postgraduate students this represents in each case. [8033]

Bill Rammell: Figures for the 2003/04 academic year are given in the table below; data for 2004/05 are not yet available.

Enrolments[1] on postgraduate science courses in English HEIs in 2003/04

	United Kingdom	European Union	Other overseas
Science postgraduates[2]	89,755	11,230	30,040
All postgraduates	269,320	27,490	80,340
Science as a percentage of total postgraduates	33	41	37

[1] Figures stated are given on a full-person equivalent basis, which is the proportion of an enrolment's activity in that subject area.
[2] Science includes medicine and dentistry, subjects allied to medicine, biological sciences, veterinary, agriculture and related sciences, physical sciences, mathematical and computing sciences, architecture and related studies and engineering and technology.
Note:
Figures are on a DfES whole-year basis and are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Press Officers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many press officers the Department and its predecessors employed in each year since 1997; and what the cost was in each year. [8138]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is set out in the table:

	Staff numbers	Spend (£000)
1996–97	19	702
1997–98	20.5	729
1998–99	29.5	969
1999–2000	28	997
2000–01	28	1,307
2001–02	28	1,097
2002–03	23.4	1,314
2003–04	18.5	1,352
2004–05	18	1,200

Religious Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will introduce compulsory religious education in all schools which focuses equally on all the main religions in England. [7298]

Jacqui Smith: All maintained schools must provide religious education (RE) for all registered pupils. Locally agreed RE syllabuses must reflect the fact that religious traditions in the country are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions. The new national framework for RE will provide opportunities to develop pupils knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions and other world views, in line with Government's goals of inclusion, tolerance and diversity.

School Building

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment has been made of the need for school building maintenance, updated for current price levels for *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* other schools in each London borough, in the last five years. [7249]

Jacqui Smith: Data on school buildings maintenance have been supplied to the Department twice; firstly in 2000–01 and secondly in 2003. The following table shows, for the two data collections, primary, secondary and other schools figures for each London local education authority. Costs have been updated to current costs. In addition to backlog repair work, the figures cover work needed over a five year period from the dates of the assessments, including cyclical and scheduled maintenance.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996–97 to £5.5 billion this year and will rise further to £6.3 billion by 2007–08. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock.

Schools maintenance requirements

£

	Primary		Secondary		Other	
	2001	2003	2001	2003	2001	2003
Barking and Dagenham	2,243,698	39,410,803	4,201,813	22,906,721	27,188	123,934
Barnet	39,024,662	40,107,660	24,673,568	34,029,880	1,915,432	2,534,913
Bexley	20,360,801	21,722,163	19,803,174	22,846,338	1,337,509	1,579,120
Brent	29,010,597	25,072,826	20,033,334	17,006,117	2,196,700	1,865,460
Bromley	19,414,064	24,100,807	20,216,776	26,389,627	920,896	1,585,557
Camden	8,573,851	12,159,257	11,641,138	11,119,195	1,445,671	1,330,147
Croydon	13,422,452	14,553,936	12,783,519	13,776,575	1,370,416	1,422,410
Ealing	34,045,012	31,082,778	17,170,999	15,440,938	2,375,832	2,243,389
Enfield	37,183,816	28,203,143	31,075,780	22,440,115	3,565,292	2,372,245
Greenwich	35,522,158	39,219,290	11,743,286	26,946,521	6,243,138	4,184,282
Hackney	28,900,873	36,353,462	16,131,501	21,767,674	3,952,027	3,074,077
Hammersmith and Fulham	12,119,573	9,928,217	12,038,322	11,371,871	3,032,569	3,157,738

Schools maintenance requirements

£

	Primary		Secondary		Other	
	2001	*2003*	*2001*	*2003*	*2001*	*2003*
Haringey	—	35,945,789	—	13,790,757	—	1,673,651
Harrow	11,433,656	13,495,330	8,461,492	11,153,747	6,745,305	7,135,427
Havering	38,425,867	33,035,051	29,858,490	28,783,241	1,410,024	1,522,827
Hillingdon	20,214,363	21,587,648	14,246,302	16,975,522	1,624,914	1,809,548
Hounslow	23,175,540	29,106,708	17,527,247	27,857,095	1,574,181	3,246,966
Islington	34,505,108	23,651,347	18,588,643	12,497,917	3,827,587	2,475,645
Kensington and Chelsea	7,801,892	6,454,041	1,968,212	2,212,459	1,625,229	1,460,770
Kingston upon Thames	12,486,084	17,837,505	17,660,145	23,544,250	1,321,771	1,938,597
Lambeth	—	54,827,241	—	44,242,445	—	8,344,663
Lewisham	39,378,088	35,584,122	23,882,208	23,306,117	4,061,893	3,882,120
Merton	10,474,790	12,148,736	7,864,319	8,892,701	9,226,542	1,967,176
Newham	40,501,813	28,281,733	23,151,778	19,748,374	2,547,393	911,797
Redbridge	25,335,410	22,578,687	22,502,056	21,320,757	1,937,394	1,120,458
Richmond upon Thames	13,120,661	13,795,165	—	10,220,238	762,559	764,066
Southwark	22,846,082	29,505,233	10,992,214	17,986,923	4,623,772	4,434,201
Sutton	9,249,811	10,388,821	13,107,369	8,964,390	1,533,305	928,842
Tower Hamlets	21,170,592	13,587,966	19,349,058	12,377,368	4,010,666	1,356,707
Waltham Forest	20,079,861	14,788,170	15,492,380	10,053,638	3,025,488	1,900,798
Wandsworth	40,590,068	40,590,068	29,674,514	29,674,514	6,990,906	6,990,906
Westminster	16,589,720	14,082,979	21,714,889	13,172,533	1,082,643	1,957,073

'—' indicates no data supplied, or data appraised as unreliable.

School Funding

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the funding per pupil in *(a)* primary and junior schools and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) West Sussex, (ii) Kent, (iii) Durham, (iv) the East Riding of Yorkshire and (v) each English county was in each of the last eight years. [7914]

Jacqui Smith: The figures requested are expressed in real terms and set out in the following tables:

Pupils aged three to 10

£

	LEA	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*
938	West Sussex	2,430	2,550	2,750	2,910	2,970	3,110	3,220	3,360
886	Kent	2,480	2,620	2,840	3,000	3,050	3,180	3,330	3,450
840	Durham	2,310	2,470	2,740	2,960	2,990	3,190	3,300	3,540
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	2,260	2,420	2,650	2,810	2,820	3,010	3,110	3,290
815	North Yorkshire	2,310	2,480	2,710	2,850	2,890	3,120	3,220	3,390
820	Bedfordshire	2,390	2,540	2,780	2,940	2,980	3,120	3,230	3,410
825	Buckinghamshire	2,450	2,600	2,810	2,970	3,020	3,150	3,290	3,450
830	Derbyshire	2,250	2,410	2,630	2,750	2,820	3,000	3,120	3,290
835	Dorset	2,350	2,480	2,690	2,810	2,840	2,960	3,080	3,230
845	East Sussex	2,500	2,660	2,900	3,050	3,090	3,220	3,360	3,510
850	Hampshire	2,360	2,490	2,700	2,860	2,910	3,060	3,170	3,300
855	Leicestershire	2,260	2,400	2,600	2,730	2,750	2,860	2,970	3,120
860	Staffordshire	2,200	2,340	2,540	2,680	2,680	2,910	3,010	3,180
865	Wiltshire	2,360	2,500	2,700	2,820	2,870	3,100	3,190	3,360
873	Cambridgeshire	2,310	2,480	2,680	2,800	2,840	3,090	3,220	3,380
875	Cheshire	2,250	2,400	2,610	2,750	2,790	2,970	3,070	3,260
878	Devon	2,440	2,540	2,740	2,870	2,920	3,100	3,210	3,360
881	Essex	2,480	2,610	2,830	2,990	3,040	3,200	3,320	3,460
885	Worcestershire	2,300	2,400	2,610	2,740	2,770	2,900	3,010	3,180
888	Lancashire	2,350	2,520	2,750	2,900	2,950	3,100	3,230	3,420
891	Nottinghamshire	2,270	2,410	2,650	2,780	2,830	2,990	3,080	3,260
893	Shropshire	2,350	2,500	2,710	2,870	2,900	3,110	3,230	3,410
908	Cornwall	2,400	2,560	2,780	2,940	2,990	3,150	3,250	3,420
909	Cumbria	2,280	2,450	2,700	2,870	2,910	3,170	3,280	3,460
916	Gloucestershire	2,330	2,490	2,700	2,840	2,880	3,010	3,100	3,280
919	Hertfordshire	2,450	2,570	2,790	2,930	2,970	3,140	3,260	3,380
925	Lincolnshire	2,350	2,490	2,700	2,860	2,920	3,120	3,220	3,410
926	Norfolk	2,390	2,550	2,770	2,930	2,980	3,160	3,290	3,460
928	Northamptonshire	2,290	2,450	2,650	2,780	2,840	3,060	3,160	3,340
929	Northumberland	2,280	2,430	2,650	2,810	2,850	3,090	3,220	3,420
931	Oxfordshire	2,470	2,610	2,830	2,980	3,030	3,180	3,310	3,450
933	Somerset	2,340	2,500	2,720	2,850	2,900	3,060	3,170	3,310
935	Suffolk	2,340	2,470	2,670	2,790	2,820	2,980	3,110	3,260
936	Surrey	2,460	2,580	2,780	2,930	2,980	3,130	3,230	3,420
937	Warwickshire	2,270	2,430	2,620	2,760	2,820	3,030	3,140	3,300

Pupils aged 11 to 15

£

	LEA	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
938	West Sussex	3,220	3,290	3,520	3,710	3,790	3,820	4,020	4,110
886	Kent	3,300	3,380	3,660	3,850	3,940	3,980	4,230	4,300
840	Durham	3,240	3,360	3,650	3,860	3,910	3,970	4,140	4,340
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	3,070	3,170	3,440	3,580	3,640	3,610	3,820	3,950
815	North Yorkshire	3,120	3,220	3,480	3,620	3,690	3,680	3,860	3,980
820	Bedfordshire	3,220	3,320	3,630	3,860	3,950	3,910	4,110	4,240
825	Buckinghamshire	3,250	3,340	3,600	3,800	3,900	3,940	4,130	4,240
830	Derbyshire	3,060	3,150	3,400	3,550	3,630	3,680	3,860	4,010
835	Dorset	3,070	3,170	3,430	3,570	3,640	3,660	3,860	3,970
845	East Sussex	3,320	3,410	3,700	3,880	4,000	4,010	4,240	4,340
850	Hampshire	3,150	3,220	3,470	3,670	3,760	3,780	3,980	4,070
855	Leicestershire	3,010	3,100	3,340	3,470	3,520	3,520	3,710	3,800
860	Staffordshire	3,020	3,110	3,360	3,500	3,560	3,590	3,780	3,910
865	Wiltshire	3,110	3,230	3,470	3,600	3,660	3,730	3,890	4,020
873	Cambridgeshire	3,110	3,220	3,450	3,570	3,660	3,750	3,970	4,090
875	Cheshire	3,040	3,130	3,370	3,500	3,560	3,640	3,840	3,990
878	Devon	3,210	3,300	3,520	3,640	3,710	3,710	3,910	4,040
881	Essex	3,300	3,390	3,650	3,840	3,920	3,970	4,190	4,270
885	Worcestershire	3,040	3,140	3,400	3,570	3,630	3,650	3,840	3,970
888	Lancashire	3,180	3,290	3,560	3,720	3,800	3,810	4,030	4,170
891	Nottinghamshire	3,080	3,180	3,450	3,560	3,630	3,670	3,850	3,970
893	Shropshire	3,110	3,200	3,460	3,610	3,710	3,810	3,990	4,090
908	Cornwall	3,240	3,340	3,590	3,730	3,810	3,770	3,960	4,090
909	Cumbria	3,160	3,270	3,550	3,730	3,810	3,830	4,020	4,170
916	Gloucestershire	3,080	3,210	3,470	3,590	3,650	3,710	3,880	4,010
919	Hertfordshire	3,330	3,420	3,680	3,860	3,940	3,910	4,120	4,170
925	Lincolnshire	3,180	3,300	3,550	3,710	3,790	3,840	4,040	4,160
926	Norfolk	3,190	3,300	3,560	3,730	3,820	3,820	4,040	4,150
928	Northamptonshire	3,140	3,260	3,490	3,630	3,700	3,790	3,980	4,110
929	Northumberland	3,170	3,270	3,590	3,820	3,890	3,870	4,070	4,250
931	Oxfordshire	3,230	3,330	3,610	3,790	3,880	3,930	4,130	4,220
933	Somerset	3,140	3,240	3,500	3,630	3,720	3,800	4,000	4,090
935	Suffolk	3,110	3,200	3,460	3,640	3,730	3,700	3,910	4,010
936	Surrey	3,300	3,380	3,610	3,800	3,880	3,900	4,080	4,230
937	Warwickshire	3,060	3,180	3,400	3,530	3,620	3,730	3,930	4,040

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2003–04 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 23 March 2005.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education SSA/EFS settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 10 and 11 to 15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those LEAs in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004–05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004–05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006–07 and 2007–08 or 2006–7 to 2008–9, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Status: 2005–06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.

School Meals

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to her Answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 698W, on school meals, *(a)* when she expects to decide how best to capture information about schools meals provision and *(b)* what information about school meals provision is collected by (i) her Department and (ii) other Government departments. [7214]

Jacqui Smith: Our intention is to send schools a questionnaire covering the relevant information about school meals provision before they break for the summer holidays.

The Department for Education and Skills collects information on eligibility and take-up of free school meals. Other Government departments do not collect information about school meals.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects the School Meals Review Panel to publish its draft school lunch standards for the school year starting in September. [8058]

Jacqui Smith: The Department for Education and Skills will publish the draft version of the school lunch standards for public consultation this September, the final version will be mandatory by September 2006.

Schools (Sutton)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are attending schools in the London borough of Sutton in the 2004–05 academic year, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* (i) primary, (ii) secondary and (iii) special school. [7248]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is given in the table:

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1]: number (headcount) of pupils[2]—as at January 2005 (provisional)—Sutton local education authority area, by local authority area

Headcount of pupils

	Primary	*Secondary*	*Special*		*Total*	*Total*
			Maintained	*Non-maintained*		
Sutton local authority	14,790	14,740	270	80	350	29,880
Epsom and Ewell local authority	260	1,220	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,480
Sutton local education authority	15,050	15,960	270	80	350	31,360

n/a = not applicable.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Note:
Pupil numbers nave been rounded to the neatest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source:
Annual Schools Census

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average time taken to statement a pupil in Lancashire education authority was in the last period for which figures are available. [6604]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Education and Skills does not hold data on the average time taken to issue a statement for pupils with special educational needs in local education authorities. Relevant data is however available from the Audit Commission. The LEA Best Value indicator BV 43b shows that 67.1 per cent. of draft statements of SEN in Lancashire were prepared within 18 weeks during 2003–04. If cases covered by the statutory exceptions to the time limits—as set out in the Education (Special Educational Needs) (England) (Consolidation) Regulations 2001, Section 12(7)—are excluded, 89.7 per cent. were prepared within the 18 week period (Indicator BV 43a).

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps will be taken to consult parents of children with special educational needs (SEN) in the national audit of SEN specialist services. [7299]

Maria Eagle: The national audit of low incidence special needs support, services and provision is currently under way. The questionnaires have been issued to all local authorities and responses are being received and followed up. Structured workshops have been established in each Region to discuss the questionnaire findings and add to the audit data collection. The workshop participants are from local authorities, health and social care as well as the non-maintained, private and voluntary sectors and include representatives from organisations such as the parent partnerships.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Rights Act 2001 in *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* primary care centres in respect of deaf people and people suffering from hearing impairment. [7377]

Maria Eagle: The remit of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 does not cover hospitals or primary care trusts. The Act amended the Education Act 1996 to strengthen the right to a mainstream education for pupils with special educational needs where parents want it and where it is compatible with the efficient education of other children. It also amended Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to require local education authorities, schools, colleges, universities and providers of adult education not to discriminate against disabled people in their access to education for reasons relating to their disability and to require local education authorities and schools to plan to increase progressively, and overtime, access to schools by disabled pupils and prospective pupils.

Student Debt

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the total amount was of debt repaid by *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU students who graduated from English universities in each year since 1994; and what proportion of debt remains outstanding for each year; [8029]

(2) what the average proportion of student loan debt repaid by United Kingdom borrowers entering repayment status was in each financial year since 1999. [8030]

Bill Rammell: Borrowers with income-contingent loans repay 9 per cent. of income over £15,000. They may voluntarily pay more. Borrowers enter repayment status in the April after they have graduated, or otherwise left their course.

The table shows the amount repaid on UK publicly-owned student loans by financial year.

£ million

Financial year	*Amount repaid*
1994–95	27.4
1995–96	50.5
1996–97	86.1
1997–98	133.6
1998–99	134.5
1999–2000	131.2
2000–01	178.4
2001–02	266.8
2002–03	332.6
2003–04	413.0

Source:
Student Loans Company

Figures include repayments on both income-contingent and mortgage-style loans. Note that the figures are repayments posted during the financial year from all borrowers, regardless of when they entered repayment status or are due to enter repayment status. It would be misleading to show these repayments as a proportion of the total amount outstanding at the end of the year, as a significant part of the outstanding amount is loans that are not yet in repayment status. EU students are not eligible for maintenance loans in the UK. Figures are not available separately for UK students in English universities.

In general, repayments of income-contingent loans are collected through the tax system. Repayments are notified to the Student Loans Company (SLC) after the end of the tax year, after which SLC reconcile the repayments notified with their records. Therefore there will be some repayments that have been made but are not yet reflected in the figures.

The following table shows repayments of income-contingent loans, and amounts outstanding and repaid as a percentage of the total, for cohorts of borrowers. The table shows the position reported in June 2005; figures will change as further repayments are recorded for each cohort.

Year borrower entered repayment status (cohort)	*Repayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of amount outstanding*	*Percentage of amount repaid*
2000	24.3	86	14
2001	39.8	90	10
2002	121.6	92	8
2003	115.3	95	5
2004	83.5	97	3

Source:
Student Loans Company

The first cohort of income contingent borrowers entered repayment status in April 2000. The earnings of graduates are likely to rise in the years after leaving higher education, therefore the repayments of income-contingent loans will be lower in the early years. This is reflected in the table. Information in this format is not held centrally for mortgage-style borrowers.

Student Loans

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what legal powers are available to the Student Loans Company to obtain repayments of loans in respect of top-up fees from graduates from EU member states working outside the UK; what estimate she has made of the likely total value of such loans in each year; and if she will make a statement. [4830]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company will have the power to recover loans which are not recoverable through income tax in the UK, as a debt through litigation in the courts, if there is a breach of the terms. We anticipate relying on European Council regulation 44/2001 in support of this.

We estimate that the annual resource cost of fee loans issued to EU students who would work outside the UK on graduation could be around £25 million[1] (steady state at 2006/07 terms). This assumes that 91 per cent. of EU students are charged the full £3,000 fee, 9 per cent. charged £2,000, 80 per cent. of them take out a fee loan and around 75 per cent. of EU students work outside the UK after graduation. The latter assumption has been derived from data on the first destination of EU students on graduation. These data indicate that a large proportion of EU students do not go into work on graduation, the majority of these undertaking further study. In the absence of any data about the eventual employment of this group of students, we have assumed that they all enter employment outside the UK and hence, the £25 million figure could be an over-estimate.

The estimate presented here is in resource terms. This is the resource cost to the Department of loans—specifically of providing an interest subsidy and of writing-off some loans. It is on a different basis to (Commons Written) PQ 3057, which concerned the cost to the Department of issuing loans for fees to all EU students, not just those who move outside the UK after graduation, and uses an updated discount rate to calculate resource costs[2].

[1] Figure rounded to the nearest £5 million.

[2] Resource cost estimates updated using latest 2.2 per cent. discount rate.

Teacher Recruitment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the targets for recruitment to *(a)* science, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* modern foreign languages teacher training courses were in each year between 1994 and 2004; and what the performance against those targets was in each year. [7393]

Jacqui Smith: The number of places allocated and the number of people recruited to science, mathematics and modern foreign languages in England from 1994 to 2004 are given in tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1: Science

	Places	*Recruitment*	*Difference*
1993/94	2,615	2,397	218
1994/95	3,200	2,918	282
1995/96	3,402	2,794	608
1996/97	3,700	2,937	763
1997/98	3,300	2,789	511
1998/99	3,050	2,279	771
1999/2000	2,390	2,362	28
2000/01	2,690	2,413	277
2001/02	2,810	2,594	216
2002/03	2,850	2,701	149
2003/04	3,225	2,871	354

Table 2: Mathematics

	Places	*Recruitment*	*Difference*
1993/94	1,755	1,790	-35
1994/95	2,230	1,950	280
1995/96	2,267	1,795	472
1996/97	2,550	1,653	897
1997/98	2,250	1,464	786
1998/99	2,150	1,120	1,030
1999/2000	1,680	1,302	378
2000/01	1,850	1,290	560

Table 2: Mathematics

	Places	*Recruitment*	*Difference*
2001/02	1,940	1,553	387
2002/03	1,940	1,674	266
2003/04	2,315	1,942	373

Table 3: Modern foreign languages

	Places	*Recruitment*	*Difference*
1993/94	1,665	1,550	115
1994/95	2,060	1,789	271
1995/96	2,092	1,790	302
1996/97	2,250	1,720	530
1997/98	2,650	1,799	851
1998/99	2,300	1,657	643
1999/2000	2,200	1,469	731
2000/01	2,050	1,635	415
2001/02	2,050	1,705	345
2002/03	2,050	1,732	318
2003/04	2,050	1,819	231

The number of places allocated and the number of people recruited do not take into account the Fast Track scheme or employment-based routes into teaching.

University Students (Counselling)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what changes to provision of counselling services for university students has been made to meet the changes in demand arising from broadening access. [7500]

Bill Rammell: Provision of Counselling Services is a matter for individual higher education institutions. Counselling Services in UK universities have responded positively to the changes in student populations resulting from the HE Widening Participation agenda. The Government have supported a number of initiatives to improve all core support services to students, such as the "Developing Modern Higher Education Careers Services", report in 2001. A key focus of "Developing Modern Higher Education Careers Services" was the need to ensure greater and more targeted access to those students and graduates who might be disadvantaged and/or in need of support. The follow-up report "Modernising HE Careers Education—a framework for good practice" showed that universities had reviewed their provision of support services, and recognised the need to improve their standards of service.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 30 June 2005

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine TB

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been infected with bovine TB in each of the last three years in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Cornwall, *(c)* Somerset and *(d)* Dorset; and how many cattle were destroyed during the foot and mouth epidemic in each county. [5964]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 21 June 2005]:* If an animal reacts positively to the skin test it is generally considered to have bovine TB. However, it is not always possible to confirm infection in any particular animal by post-mortem examination at the slaughterhouse, or by culturing *Mycobacterium bovis* in the laboratory. This is because in the early stages of the disease, it is not always possible to see lesions with the naked eye, and, due to the fastidious nature of the organism, it is not possible to culture from samples in every case.

Therefore, the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine TB control measures in the four counties requested in the last three years is provided as follows:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*
Devon	3,022	3,657	4,674
Cornwall	2,917	2,414	2,351
Somerset	907	1,033	928
Dorset	383	399	408

The number of cattle destroyed as a result of foot and mouth in each of the counties is as follows:

Devon	3,267
Cornwall	3,310
Somerset	992
Dorset	445

Notes:
1. The number of cattle slaughtered under bovine TB control measures comprises the number of reactors to the TB test and those cattle that have been in direct contact.
2. TB data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service database on 19 May 2005.
3. All data are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in the South West have been affected by bovine TB in each of the last three years; how many cattle in England have been slaughtered due to bovine TB in each year; how much was paid by the Government to farmers in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Cornwall, *(c)* Somerset and *(d)* Dorset in compensation for bovine TB in each of the last three years; what steps she has taken to eradicate TB in cattle; and what steps she is proposing to take. [6264]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* The information requested is as follows:

Number of farms affected by TB and the cattle slaughtered

The number of holdings affected by bovine TB breakdowns in each of the last three years, as well as the number of cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in England between 2001 and 2004 are detailed in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of holdings affected by TB incident by county

	Number of farm holdings			*Number of herds under movement restrictions*[1]		
County	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Devon	630	856	915	648	912	981
Cornwall	540	619	589	560	680	638
Somerset	203	279	253	213	294	262
Dorset	102	131	107	105	140	115

[1] Data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service database on 22 June 2005. All data provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

Table 2: Cattle slaughtered in England

Year[1]	*Cattle slaughtered*[2]
2001[3]	4,284
2002[3]	17,851
2003	17,096
2004	16,955

[1] TB Reactors plus Direct Contacts
[2] Data downloaded from State Veterinary Service database on 19 May 2005. All data provisional and subject to change as more data become available.
[3] In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, data for 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with other years.

Compensation

The amount of compensation for Bovine TB paid to farmers in the four counties is not collected/available in the format requested, and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The amount of compensation paid in Great Britain over the last three years is detailed in the following table.

Table 3: Compensation paid in Great Britain

£ million

Financial year	*Expenditure*
2001–02	9.2
2002–03	31.9
2003–04	34.4
2004–05	[1]35.0

[1] Forecast.

Action to control TB

The Government are committed to finding the best way to combat bovine TB, backed by available scientific evidence and taking account of all interested parties, including the taxpayer. We published our 10-year strategy for the control of bovine TB in March. This places emphasis on keeping clean areas clean and achieving a sustained and steady reduction of TB in hotspot areas. Specific disease control policies will be

tailored to reflect the control of bovine TB in March. This places emphasis on keeping clean areas clean and achieving a sustained and steady reduction of TB in hotspot areas. Specific disease control policies will be tailored to reflect the regional variation in disease and risk, and adjusted to make best use of emerging scientific findings.

We are prepared to cull badgers to control bovine TB if evidence shows it is cost-effective, practicable and sustainable. The strategic framework sets out a process for decision-making on badger culling. However, vaccination for cattle or badgers is still a long-term goal and we have recently approved the first field trial of a TB vaccine for badgers and a new study by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency to prepare for similar field trials in cattle.

British Waterways (Surplus Land)

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure that British Waterways make available surplus land at less than market value for development of affordable housing. [7136]

Jim Knight: The Department looks to British Waterways to provide affordable housing in its developments as part of its commitment to corporate social responsibility. The amount is determined by local planning requirements and individual circumstances. As at 31 March 2005, 1,998 units of social housing are planned to be built on BW development sites.

Consultants

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to issue guidance on effective commissioning for those in the public and voluntary sectors who are commissioning work from external consultants. [7021]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 28 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of her Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6255]

Jim Knight: The Department is implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 390 posts out of London and the South East by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of relocating some posts to relatively deprived areas in the South East. So far, the Department has not identified any posts suitable for transfer to deprived areas in the South East.

Emissions Trading Scheme

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the level of penalties that will have been collected after year one of the EU emissions trading scheme. [8608]

Mr. Morley: All operators of installations that do not surrender sufficient allowances to cover their annual emissions will be liable to a penalty. In the first phase of the scheme (2005–07), the penalty will be €40 for each tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emitted by that installation for which the operator has not surrendered allowances. The penalty will rise to €100 per tonne for the second phase. The extent of the penalties for year one of the scheme will only be known after 20 April 2006, once reconciliation has taken place. We expect all installations will comply with the regulations.

Fish Merchants (Buyer's Licences)

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what circumstances a buyer's licence can be withdrawn from a UK fish merchant. [8557]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the terms of the Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers and Designation of Fish Auction Sites Regulations 2005, the Secretary of State may suspend the registration of a buyer where the registered buyer has not:

complied with a condition of registration; or

conducted his business in a manner that complies with the requirements of Article 9 of Council Regulation 2847/93 (the Control Regulation), Article 22 of Council Regulation 2371/2002 (the Common Fisheries Policy) in regard to the submission of sales notes.

In addition, a court may revoke the registration of a buyer either totally or for a specified period upon conviction for the following offences:

where a person knowingly or recklessly makes a false statement for the purposes of an application for registration;

where a registered fish buyer fails to comply with a condition of his registration;

where a registered fish buyer fails to keep, or to produce on request by a British sea fishery officer, the necessary sales records.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reported incidents of fly-tipping there were in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* region in the last period for which figures are available; and what costs were incurred in removing fly-tipped waste. [7217]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of reported incidents of fly-tipping and the cost of clearance and disposal reported between April 2004 and March 2005 are given by *(a)* waste collection authority and *(b)* region in tables made available in the Library of the House.

These data are from the Flycapture database, which records fly-tipping incidents dealt with by waste collection authorities and the Environment Agency. The figures are likely to be an underestimate and should increase as authorities improve their data collection and reporting performance.

Gangmasters

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the Gangmasters Licensing Authority to commence operation. [7176]

Jim Knight: The Gangmasters Licensing Authority commenced operation on 1 April 2005. One of the Authority's first tasks will be to establish the conditions to be attached to a licence and the operational aspects of the licensing scheme. These will be set out in rules orders and the Authority will be consulting on these as a matter of urgency.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to extend the provisions of the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 to other sectors and industries. [7177]

Jim Knight: The Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 applies to gangmasters operating in the agricultural, shellfish gathering and associated food/fish processing and packaging sectors. I have no plans to extend the scope of the Act to other sectors and industries.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her latest assessment is of the number of *(a)* legally operational and *(b)* illegal gangmaster organisations in the UK. [7178]

Jim Knight: Based on a DEFRA commissioned study, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) expects to issue 1,000 licences to gangmaster organisations operating legitimately in the agricultural, shellfish gathering and associated food and fish processing and packaging sectors in the UK. The GLA anticipates inviting licence applications from spring 2006.

By its very nature, it is very difficult to quantify illegal gangmaster activity. Once the licensing scheme is operational, the GLA's compliance role and enforcement activities undertaken on behalf of DEFRA will generate more accurate data on the numbers of gangmasters engaged in illegal business practices.

Landfill Sites

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* complaints, *(b)* court actions and *(c)* fines against landfill sites for problems related to (i) odours, (ii) water pollutions, (iii) air pollution and (iv) human health impact there were in each year since May 1997, broken down by region. [4603]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 September 2004, *Official Report*, column 944W which outline the limitations when producing this data. The following sets of data update the figures previously provided.

Complaints

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give information of incidents that were reported to the Environment Agency and were recorded on the National Incident Recording System (NIRS). It is important to note that NIRS records incidents and not complaints.

Table 1: Incidents where the pollutant was recorded as landfill odour (categories 1–3)

Region	July 2004 to April 2005
Anglian	51
Midlands	32
North East	42
North West	55
Southern	29
South West	29
Thames	55
EA Wales	50

Table 2: Incidents which had impact to water (categories 1–3)

Region	July 2004 to April 2005
Anglian	1
Midlands	4
North East	9
North West	2
Southern	2
South west	5
Thames	2
EA Wales	3

Table 3: Incidents which had impact to air (categories 1–3)

Region	July 2004 to April 2005
Anglian	45
Midlands	42
North East	58
North West	81
Southern	21
South West	21
Thames	57
EA Wales	24

The NIRS system has no designated means of recording incidents in terms of their impact on human health. Specific and accurate data concerning complaints against landfill sites for problems related to human health can not therefore be derived from NIRS.

Court actions and fines

Information concerning *(b)* court actions and *(c)* fines are kept separately, on the National Enforcement Database. The following prosecutions were taken between 1 July 2004 and 31 May 2004.

Updated figures 1 July 2004 to 31 May 2005

WRA 1991 s 85(1)

	Cases	Fines
Anglian	—	—
Midlands	—	—
NE	—	—
NW	—	—
Southern	—	—
SW	1	1
Thames	—	—
Wales	—	—

EPA 1990 s 33(1)(c)

	Cases	Fines
Anglian	—	—
Midlands	2	2
NE	—	—
NW	—	—
Southern	—	—
SW	—	—
Thames	—	—
Wales	—	—

EPA 1990 s.33(6)

	Cases	*Fines*
Anglian	—	—
Midlands	2	2
NE	—	—
NW	1	1
Southern	—	—
SW	—	—
Thames	—	—
Wales	—	—

Llancloudy

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will instruct her officials to meet the hon. Member for Hereford and residents and landowners in Llancloudy in Hereford constituency before a decision is made on the route for lorries from the farm in Llancloudy to the main road; and if she will make a statement. [5672]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The hon. Member should be aware that there is ongoing litigation between the current owners and occupiers Mrs. Georgina Hawkins and Mr. Kevin Feakins and the Rural Payments Agency and Defra in connection with (1) sums owed by Mr. Feakins to the RPA in respect of the sheep meat clawback scheme; and (2) Defra's activities on the farm during the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak.

My officials are fully aware of the concerns of local residents and they have been in correspondence with the Llancloudy Residents Association over the proposals for the removal of farmyard manure and other seized materials from Hill Farm Llancloudy. The current situation is that Defra has agreed to remove these seized materials and to reinstate the land. However, in order to fulfil this undertaking the Department needs to agree a licence with Mr. Feakins and Mrs. Hawkins, as the owners and occupiers of the land, in order to gain access to the land. This licence will also include detailed method statements for the operations required. Defra's preferred access route is along the main farm access drive, a route which would minimise the impact on the majority of Llancloudy residents—this route has not been agreed by Mr. Feakins and Mrs. Hawkins.

Given the failure to agree access routes, my officials do not believe that an on-site meeting would be helpful, since until the exact access route is agreed, contractors cannot prepare the detailed working protocols and risk assessments that will be required and officials would not be able to address the concerns of residents. However given the understandable concerns of residents, my officials would be pleased to meet with the hon. Member in London, together with a representative of the Llancloudy Residents Association in London to explain the current situation and to outline the steps the Department has taken to agree access and will take to ensure that the impact on residents will be minimised.

Munitions/Fireworks Production

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research she has commissioned on the duration of damage to *(a)* soil and *(b)* ground water on land that was used for (i) munitions production and (ii) fireworks production; and if she will make a statement. [6360]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency has published two documents regarding the potential for contamination of land at former explosives manufacturing sites (including fireworks). Both deal with the characteristics of the potential contaminants at such sites. This includes their solubility and biodegradability which can be used to indicate the likelihood of them persisting at the site and the methods required to investigate and remediate such contamination.

These reports are:

R&D Technical Report P5-042/TR/03—Land Contamination: Technical Guidance on Special Sites: Explosives Manufacturing & Processing Sites.

Project Record P5-036/01—Collation of Toxicological Data and Development of Guideline Values for Explosive Substances, Collation of Physicochemical data.

This second document is the first step in the production of Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment (CLEA) Soil Guideline Values.

The agency has also produced general guidance on the assessment of natural attenuation (the dispersion or breakdown) of contaminants in groundwater:

R&D Publication 95—Guidance on the Assessment and Monitoring of Natural Attenuation of Contaminants in Groundwater.

Defra has two publications in its "Industry Profiles" series on munitions and firework production. This series provides information on the processes, materials and waste associated with individual industries, with respect to land contamination:

Chemical Works: explosives, propellents and pyrotechnics manufacturing works;

Engineering Works: mechanical engineering and ordnance works.

Rats

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the rat population of England and Wales in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2005. [7153]

Jim Knight: The most recent estimate of the Norway rat population in England was a minimum of 5,240,000 individuals. This figure was established by a review that assessed the population and conservation status of all British mammals, published in 1995. The only recent objective national survey of rat presence is within the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). The 1996 survey revealed that 0.23 per cent. of properties had rats indoors and 1.6 per cent. had rats present outside. A report on the rodent element of the 2001 EHCS will be published this summer.

Rural Housing Commission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* timetable for the establishment, *(b)* remit and *(c)* membership will be of the proposed Rural Housing Commission. [7397]

Jim Knight: This is a high priority for the Government. I am working closely with Ministerial colleagues to take this plan forward and hope to make an announcement shortly.

Single Payment System

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria will be used in deciding whether to undertake a Single Payment System inspection. [6826]

Jim Knight: The criteria for selection for inspection depends on whether the inspection relates to scheme eligibility or to cross-compliance. Where inspections relate to eligibility criteria, the relevant regulation requires that member states must make a random selection from the population of applicants, and a risk-based selection to highlight cases of irregularity. The latter must take account of:

the amount of aid involved;

the number of agricultural parcels and the area for which aid is requested;

changes from the previous year;

the findings of checks made in past years;

for farmers who had no hectares in the single payment Scheme reference period, compliance with the condition that at least 50 per cent. of the agricultural activity maintained in the reference period expressed in livestock units has been maintained; and

other factors to be defined by the member states.

Where inspections relate to cross-compliance conditions, the relevant regulation requires that member states select all inspections on the basis of a risk analysis appropriate to the cross compliance requirements and standards or to the existing legislation.

Tyres

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tyres were *(a)* purchased, *(b)* reused and *(c)* disposed of by (i) landfill, (ii) incineration, (iii) illegal fly-tipping and (iv) other means in each year since 2001. [4527]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures from tyre manufacturers and importers show replacement tyre sales of around 28 million car and truck units in 2003. It is estimated a further 15 million units were introduced on newly registered vehicles.

The information requested, is set out in the following table, and is based on information supplied to the Used Tyre Working Group (UTWG). Figures from the UTWG can be found on www.tyredisposal.co.uk. Full 2004 figures are not yet available.

	2001	*2002*	*2003*
Used tyre arisings (tonnes)	481,000	447,000	444,000
Re-use	118,000	105,000	105,000
Materials recovery	107,000	105,000	160,000
Energy recovery	40,000	48,000	78,000
Engineering uses	16,000	29,000	15,000
Exports	10,000	13,000	13,000
Landfill	144,000	99,000	85,000
Other	47,000	47,000	-7,000

The ban on the landfill of whole tyres at all existing hazardous waste landfill sites and all new landfill sites on 16 July 2003 passed without significant effect on tyre collection or recovery capacity. The next key date will be 16 July 2006 when shredded tyres will be banned from landfilling. Whole tyres can continue to be used for landfill engineering for both hazardous and non-hazardous landfills. The numbers of tyres disposed to landfill is reducing, and 2004 returns from members of the Tyre Recovery Association, which represents tyre collectors and reprocessors and accounts for a significant proportion of overall used tyre activity, indicate that landfill disposal reduced sharply in 2004.

There are no figures kept on the number of tyres that are flytipped.

Waste Recycling

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recycling centres there are in each London borough. [7218]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of recycling centres in each London borough is shown in the table.

	Number
Barking and Dagenham	60
Barnet	75
Bexley	84
Brent	113
Bromley	50
Camden	153
Corporation of London	14
Croydon	35
Ealing	55
Enfield	350
Greenwich	66
Hackney	73
Hammersmith and Fulham	85
Haringey	170
Harrow	38
Havering	24
Hillingdon	70
Hounslow	52
Islington	157
Kensington and Chelsea	233
Kingston-upon-Thames	32
Lambeth	20
Lewisham	48
Merton	29
Newham	126
Redbridge	69
Richmond upon Thames	123
Southwark	252
Sutton	197
Tower Hamlets	320
Waltham Forest	231
Wandsworth	430
Westminster	221
Total	4,055

White-tailed Sea Eagle

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on plans to release white tailed sea eagles in the UK; and what assessment has been made of the likely impact of their releases on *(a)* other wildlife and *(b)* livestock. [7279]

Jim Knight: Plans to release white-tailed eagles in the UK English Nature is considering plans to reintroduce white-tailed eagles for the following reasons:

The white-tailed eagle is a red listed bird of conservation concern in the UK and has unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

Much needs to be done to restore it to its former global status, including conservation action in the UK

White-tailed eagles are still absent from much of their former range which encompassed all of Europe including the length of Britain, wherever there was suitable habitat, particularly coastal and freshwater wetlands.

Conservation management applied to other species of raptors has demonstrated that population increase and range expansion can be achieved most rapidly by active intervention.

What assessment has been made of the likely impact of their releases on *(a)* other wildlife and *(b)* livestock.

The species is considered to be a potentially suitable candidate for a reintroduction programme. However unless a detailed feasibility study demonstrates the likely success of any proposed reintroduction then it will not take place. The feasibility study must include an assessment against IUCN (The World Conservation Union) criteria for species reintroductions.

Plans are at such an early stage that no feasibility study has been completed. This study will need to consider a range of biological and social-economic requirements, including the impact on other wildlife and livestock. Note the following extracts from the IUCN reintroduction criteria:

The species, if any, that has filled the void created by the loss of the species concerned, should be determined; an understanding of the effect the re-introduced species will have on the ecosystem is important for ascertaining the success of the re-introduced population.

Socio-economic studies should be made to assess impacts, costs and benefits of the re-introduction programme to local human populations.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Casinos

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) when he intends to implement a change in the use class of casinos; and if he will make a statement; [6969]

(2) what consultation his Department has undertaken since 1 November 2004 on the use class of casinos; which organisations were consulted; on what dates that consultation occurred; and if he will make a statement. [6970]

Yvette Cooper: On 1 November 2004, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport announced that the Government were minded to make a change in the Use Classes Order in respect of casinos.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister commissioned consultants to look into the case for changes to the Use Classes Order and the implications of such a change. We are considering the consultants report. No change will be made without full public consultation.

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [7182]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was established on 29 May 2002. For ODPM-owned systems instances of hacking, fraud, theft and illegal access recorded in each complete year since that date are as follows:

	Hacking	*Fraud*	*Theft*	*Illegal access*
2002–03	0	0	2	0
2003–04	0	0	2	0
2004–05	0	0	2	0

Employees (Assaults)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of local authority employees who have been assaulted at work in each London borough in each year since 1997. [7468]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

EU Funding (West Midlands)

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether appraisals of priority projects on the reserve list for Objective 2 funding in the West Midlands are continuing following the extraordinary meeting of the West Midlands Objective 2 Programme Monitoring Committee held on 18 May. [7719]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 28 June 2005]*: At the Extraordinary meeting of the West Midlands Objective 2 Programme Monitoring Committee on 18 May it was agreed that:

The appraisal of priority projects on the reserve list requiring Advantage West Midlands (the Regional Development Agency) match funding is suspended until a full application is submitted to and accepted by AWM. These projects will then be subject to a joint appraisal approach.

Programme resource will not be committed to priority projects on the reserve list until the MG Rover package of projects has been approved and then subject to resource availability, the confirmation of all match funding and necessary planning approvals being in place.

The Programme Monitoring Committee will monitor the situation, on the basis of progress reports supplied by the European secretariat in the Government Office for the West Midlands.

Fire Brigade

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average response time was to an emergency call to the fire brigade in each London borough in each year since 1997. [7473]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The available information has been supplied by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA). This shows the average response time for emergency calls in each London borough averaged over the period April 1999-September 2003.

Average time for first appliance to arrive at an incident

Borough	*Minutes and seconds*
Barking and Dagenham	6:13
Barnet	6:28
Bexley	6:22
Brent	5:56
Bromley	6:36
Camden	4:43
City	4:38
Croydon	5:59
Baling	5:45
Enfield	6:31
Greenwich	5:31
Hackney	4:59
Hammersmith and Fulham	5:10
Haringey	5:51
Harrow	6:37
Havering	6:47
Hillingdon	6:39
Hounslow	6:37
Islington	4:59
Kensington and Chelsea	4:49
Kingston upon Thames	6:13
Lambeth	5:07
Lewisham	5:00
Merton	5:53
Newham	5:33
Redbridge	6:03
Richmond upon Thames	6:38
Southwark	4:57
Sutton	6:25
Tower Hamlets	4:31
Waltham Forest	5:29
Wandsworth	5:30
Westminster	4:47

Source:

LFEPA Incident Recording Information System (IRIS) Aril 1999 to September 2003

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fire crews have trained for Lancashire fire brigade in each of the last three years; and how many are on the waiting list for training. [7655]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is a matter for the local fire and rescue service. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing

Jim Cousins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects the licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation to come into force; and when he expects to announce his decisions on the outcome of the consultation on licensing in the private sector. [8648]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is proposing that the licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) comes into force in October 2005.

Decisions on the key issues arising from the consultation exercise on HMO licensing were announced by my right hon. Friend, the former Minister for Housing and Planning on 6 April. Decisions on the remaining issues will be announced before the summer recess.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many, and what proportion of, *(a)* privately rented and *(b)* privately owned homes in each English region do not meet the Decent Homes Standard; and what steps his Department is taking to improve these homes. [7143]

Yvette Cooper: The English House Condition Survey 2001: Regional Report (ODPM, 2003) includes details of the numbers of private sector homes that did not meet the decent homes standard in 2001. Separate data are not available for privately rented and privately owned homes. The report is available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister website.

We are fully committed to improving the quality of private sector housing stock by encouraging, through financial support and guidance, the development of innovative housing renewal policies by local authorities through the powers made available to them by the Regulatory Reform Order (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002. The Housing Act 2004 contains measures to tackle private sector non-decency through the implementation of the new housing health and safety ratings system, and licensing on homes in multiple occupancy.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total expenditure on the Starter Homes Initiative was; and how many people were helped to buy a home in each year of its operation. [7173]

Yvette Cooper: The total expenditure on the Starter Home Initiative was the original budget of £250 million, plus £53 million of extra funding from the ADP in March 2004 to help those key workers whose purchases were in the pipeline when SHI finished.

The numbers of key workers who were helped to buy a home in each year of operation:

	Number
2001–02	107
2002–03	2,616
2003–04	5,998
2004–05	1,295

There were also 306 cases where a second key worker was assisted in the same household.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total expenditure on the Key Worker Living scheme has been in each year since its inception; how many key workers have benefited from the scheme in each year; and what resources have been allocated to the scheme for future years. [7174]

Yvette Cooper: Key Worker Living (KWL) began in April 2004. In 2004–05 expenditure was £265 million and 4,015 key workers benefited from the scheme. £374 million has been allocated for 2005–06 which has so far helped another 930 key workers since April 2005 and £86 million is allocated for 2006–07. The KWL target is to help 16,348 key workers by March 7. The

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently awaiting recommendations from regional housing boards on future funding levels for key workers.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homes available for rent through *(a)* Birmingham city council and *(b)* registered social landlords in Birmingham have been (i) demolished and (ii) built in each of the last 10 years. [6104]

Yvette Cooper: The information is as follows.

	Birmingham city council		*Registered social landlords*[1]
	Demolitions[2]	*New Build/ Acquisition*[3]	*New Build*
1996–97	[4]—	32	573
1997–98	[4]—	32	849
1998–99	[4]—	43	814
1999–2000	[4]—	58	497
2000–01	694	16	481
2001–02	1,239	36	455
2002–03	1,310	70	532
2003–04	857	14	788
2004–05[5]	1,337	[4]—	[4]—

[1] RSL new build completions data taken from Birmingham city council website "Development in Birmingham 2003–04".
[2] Local authority demolitions data taken from city council's business plan statistical appendix—ODPM database.
[3] New build/acquisition local authority data provided by Birmingham city council housing department
[4] No data
[5] 2004–05 demolition data taken from the draft HRA business plan, and is the planned demolitions figure, not outturn

The Housing Corporation, the funding and regulatory body for registered social landlords (RSLs) sponsored by the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister, only collects demolition data on a national level and therefore it is not possible to provide the information requested for RSL demolitions in the Birmingham area.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what eligibility criteria will be used to determine access to the Homebuy Joint Shared Equity Loans with Mortgage Lenders scheme. [6455]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is currently consulting on the details of our proposals for a range of new HomeBuy products, as set out in the consultation document 'HomeBuy—Expanding the Opportunity to Own' (a copy of which is available from the Library of the House).

Under our proposals the eligibility criteria for the public/private funded equity loans variant of HomeBuy will remain the same as under our proposals for Open Market HomeBuy. We will receive advice for Regional Housing Boards on eligibility. Subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise the programme will, as at present, be focussed on assisting key public sector workers such as teachers, nurses and police officers. Some social tenants and those on housing registers (ie those waiting for a council or housing association home to rent) may also be eligible.

Laptop Computers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many laptop computers have been used by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department in each year since 1995; how many have been (i) lost and (ii) stolen in that period; what the cost was of the use of laptops in that period; and if he will make a statement. [4122]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of laptop computers used by Ministers and special advisers since the creation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 29 May 2002 is as follows:

Number

	Ministers	*Special advisers*
2002	2	2
2003	2	2
2004	2	2
2005	2	2

The information requested on the use of laptop computers by officials, and associated costs, in each year since that date is not available centrally in the form requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental records show the following numbers of lost or stolen laptop computers across the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister since 29 May 2002:

	Lost			*Stolen*		
	Ministers	*Special advisers*	*Officials*	*Ministers*	*Special advisers*	*Officials*
2002–03	—	—	—	—	—	2
2003–04	—	—	—	—	—	2
2004–05	—	—	—	—	—	2
2005–06	—	—	2	—	—	[1]1

[1] Recovered

Letting Schemes

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many choice-based lettings schemes have been established by local authorities in England since 2001, broken down by region. [7270]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the number of local authorities which indicated that they operate a choice-based lettings scheme as at April 2004. As some authorities are jointly involved in the same choice-based lettings scheme, the figures more accurately represent the number of local authorities which have adopted a choice based lettings approach rather than the number of choice-based lettings schemes in operation.

Number of local authorities involved in a choice-based letting scheme as at April 2004

North East	2
North West	17
Yorkshire and the Humber	5
East Midlands	7
West Midlands	7
East of England	7
London	18
South East	7
South West	8
England	78

Source:
ODPM's Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

Information on choice based letting schemes has been collected since 2002; only the latest figures are shown as previous year's data are not thought to be reliable.

Local Area Agreements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government have to extend local area agreements to lower-tier authorities. [7438]

Mr. Woolas: Lower-tier authorities are already included in Local Area Agreements (LAAs) in two-tier areas. Whilst county councils lead the development of LAAs, they must work closely with lower-tier authorities in their areas in doing so. Precisely how this engagement takes place is down to local arrangements.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the questionnaire sent to local authorities by his Department on the impact of implementing different variations of local government finance reform. [5589]

Mr. Woolas: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has made available in the Library of the House copies of a questionnaire issued to a small selection of local authorities about possible practical and timing issues for Local Authorities and IT suppliers related to council tax revaluation in England. We have also provided a summary of the responses which have been submitted to Lyons.

As the questionnaire makes clear, the list of reform scenarios it contains was a way of exploring some of the technical parameters relating to practical implementation of council tax revaluation. It should not be taken in any sense as an indication of likely reform options.

Lyons Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many full-time equivalent employees are employed in relation to the Lyons Review. [4269]

Mr. Woolas: The Lyons Inquiry team comprises 11.9 full-time equivalent employees. The efficiency and relocation team, in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, works on both the implications for the Office of the Lyons relocation review as well as the Gershon review. The team has three full-time members of staff and they spend about a third of their time specifically on Lyons relocation review-related work. Other members of staff across the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, including in the regional development group, and in our non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies undertake specific work as necessary.

New Homes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many new homes have been built by each local housing authority that has opted for *(a)* large scale voluntary transfer, *(b)* arm's length management organisation and *(c)* private finance initiative in each year since it did so. [6813]

Yvette Cooper: Most local housing authorities have not built any dwellings following large scale voluntary transfer, except those tabled as follows. Most social housing provision will have been through registered social landlords. Local housing authorities opting for arm length management organisation have reported no subsequent local authority house building. Local authorities with signed Housing Revenue Account private finance initiatives contracts have not reported any subsequent local authority house building.

Local authorities reporting 'local authority' house building following large scale voluntary transfer (dwellings/year)

	Number
Chiltern	
1989–90	25
Cotswold[1]	
1997–98	17
1998–99	17
2000–01	20
2002–03	4
2003–04	10
East Lindsey	
1999–2000	1
Hambleton	
1996–97	16
Hertsmere	
1998–99	1
Kennet	
1999–2000	11
2003–04	5
Mid Sussex	
1991–92	32
Ryedale	
1995–96	4
Sevenoaks[1]	
1989–90	102
1990–91	18
1991–92	18
1992–93	6
South Shropshire	
1994–95	6
Vale of White Horse	
1995–96	9

[1] Numbers may include some registered social landlord dwellings due to misclassification.

Pensioner Home Improvements

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he has taken to ensure that local authorities adopt appropriate practices for delivering home improvements for pensioners to meet their community safety objectives; and what discussions his Department has had with the Home Office on this subject. [7191]

Mr. Woolas: Under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance)(England and Wales) Order 2002 local authorities were given wide ranging new powers to provide financial assistance to home-owners and others to improve living accommodation. The Office of the

Deputy Prime Minister's circular 05/2003 advised local authorities on how they could be used to align housing renewal policies with wider strategic objectives such as the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on named agencies to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The decisions and activities of local bodies and organisations can have an important impact on levels of crime and disorder in communities. In recognition of this, section 17 aims to place crime and disorder reduction at the heart of local decision-making and to give it a focus across the wide range of local services that influence and impact on community safety.

Ministers and official in ODPM are in constant touch with colleagues in the Home Office to discuss these important strategic issues and how effective policies can best be delivered.

Regional Fire Control Centres

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department has spent on *(a)* consultancy and *(b)* other fees relating to the proposed regional fire control centres. [4936]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The FiReControl project commenced in January 2004. To the end of May 2005, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has spent £10,385,447 on consultancy and £2,524,472 on other fees related to the project. Some of these costs relating to building design are eligible to be reclaimed from selected accommodation developers.

Reviews (Funding)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish the budget for the conduct of *(a)* the Lyons Review and *(b)* the Balance of Funding Review. [4241]

Mr. Woolas: The Lyons Inquiry spent £239,565 in 2004–05 and has an estimated spend of £731,400 for 2005–06. The team working in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the implications of the Lyon's relocation review and the Gershon efficiency review is projected to cost £110,785 in 2005–06. About £37,000 of this can be attributed to Lyon's relocation review related work.

For the Balance of Funding Review £118,789 was spent on externally commissioned research. The net cost of producing the report was about £1,000 taking account of sales. Other, administrative costs were not separately identified.

Thames Gateway Flood Risk Assessment

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to delay the need for developers to provide a flood risk assessment for each new development until the Thames gateway flood risk assessment is available. [7077]

Yvette Cooper: In line with planning policy guidance note (PPG) 25, those proposing developments in flood risk areas should carry out a flood risk assessment appropriate to the location, scale and nature of the development and should submit this with the application.

The strategic flood risk assessment currently being undertaken by the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership will provide information allowing local authorities in the area to work together to develop land use allocation strategies for managing flood risk. It will not remove the necessity for site-specific flood risk assessments which will still be needed to consider the specific risk of flooding to the development over its expected lifetime and address issues such as surface drainage and rainwater collection and discharge, as well as risks associated from fluvial or tidal flooding.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Chess

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment she has made of the case for chess to be recognised as a sport; and if she will make a statement. [8366]

Mr. Caborn: The criteria that the sports councils use to decide whether an activity should be recognised as a sport are derived from their Royal Charters, and ultimately from the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937. Legal advice has stated that chess does not fall within the meaning of the word "sport" for the purposes of the Royal Charter, or the meaning of "physical training and recreation" in the Act. Recognition of chess would therefore require amendments to the Act.

Sport is now a devolved matter, so a change in the current position would require the unanimous support of both the Devolved Administrations (DAs) and the sports councils, before any progress could be made. It would be necessary to put a case to the DAs and the sports councils for legislative change that would include chess, and if necessary other "mind games", within the criteria for recognition as a sport. The case put forward must be able to convince them that chess provides the same benefits to the public, such as improved health and fitness, as recognised sports, in order to merit equal status and the financial support that comes with it.

Departmental Press Release

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she was first informed that her departmental press officer had disseminated a press release on behalf of her husband; and who authorised the press officer to take this action. [7293]

Tessa Jowell: The press officer, acting on his own initiative, e-mailed a single newspaper with a statement on behalf of Mr. Mills. He was not asked or encouraged to do so, and I was made aware later that day that he had done so.

National Lottery

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which constituencies have received *(a)* less than 10 per cent. and *(b)* less than

15 per cent. of the national average for constituencies of grants to good causes from the national lottery; and if she will make a statement. [8074]

Mr. Caborn: This answer is based on the latest commercially available constituency boundary information, which does not include the boundary changes made in Scotland for the 2005 general election.

The following constituencies have received less than 10 per cent. of the average (mean) amount awarded in each constituency:

Hornchurch
Birmingham, Hall Green
Birmingham, Hodge Hill
Southend West
Romford
Hamilton South
Billericay

Constituencies that have received less than 15 per cent. of the average (mean) amount awarded in each constituency include the seven listed above, and the following eight:

Aberdeen South
Hayes and Harlington
Croydon South
Luton North
Newport East
Birmingham, Erdington
Birmingham, Yardley
Rayleigh

However the mean average of £23.9 million per constituency is distorted because of very large grants in a few constituencies. If the median average of £13.3 million is used, no constituencies have less than 10 per cent. of this and only Hornchurch and Birmingham, Hall Green have received less than 15 per cent.

The two lists of constituencies are derived from the Department's Lottery Awards Database which is based on information supplied by the lottery distributors.

Swimming Pools

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools there have been in each London borough in each year since 1997. [8209]

Mr. Caborn: The information requested is provided in the following table. The information includes swimming pools provided by public and private operators.

		Of which: "x" built in								
London borough	*Total number of pools*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Barking and Dagenham	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barnet	22	1	2	—	2	2	1	—	1	—
Bexley	14	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Brent	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Bromley	28	—	2	—	3	2	1	—	1	—
Camden	25	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
City of London	14	—	—	2	—	3	1	1	—	—
Croydon	28	1	—	1	2	—	2	—	4	—
Ealing	26	2	3	—	2	2	2	1	1	—
Enfield	16	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Greenwich	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackney	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	18	—	1	—	1	1	4	2	—	—
Haringey	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrow	11	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Havering	12	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	—
Hillingdon	20	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	—
Hounslow	16	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Islington	13	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	16	—	—	3	1	—	1	1	—	—
Kingston upon Thames	12	—	2	—	1	—	3	1	—	—
Lambeth	11	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Lewisham	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Merton	14	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Newham	10	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
Redbridge	11	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Richmond	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Southwark	17	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Sutton	12	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	11	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Waltham Forest	15	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—
Wandsworth	20	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Westminster	40	—	1	—	2	4	3	—	2	1

TRANSPORT

Buses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities in England subsidise the running of bus services. [8603]

Ms Buck: The majority of subsidy for bus services outside London is provided by local transport authorities, that is county councils, unitary authorities and in metropolitan areas, passenger transport authorities. In some areas district councils also contribute to funding for bus services.

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [7186]

Ms Buck: The Department and its Agencies recorded no cases of computer hacking in 2001–02, 30 cases in 2002–03, 71 cases in 2003–04, 31 cases in 2004–05 (internal source) and one case to date in 2005–06 (external source). Of these, the number of recorded cases attributed to fraud were 30 in 2002–03, 71 in 2003–04 and 30 in 2004–05.

The Department and its Agencies has recorded six cases of theft in 2001–02, 23 cases in 2002–03, 23 cases in 2003–04, 18 cases in 2004–05 and four cases to date in 2005–06. These cases were perpetrated by persons outside the Department and its Agencies.

Container Traffic

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of container traffic which entered the UK through *(a)* Harwich, *(b)* Felixstowe and *(c)* London which had final destinations north of the M62 and which was transported to those destinations by train. [7694]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not collect information about the destination of containers that enter UK ports and which are transported onwards by train.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the tonnage of container traffic which entered the UK through *(a)* Harwich, *(b)* Felixstowe and *(c)* London which went to destinations north of the M62 by lorry. [7695]

Dr. Ladyman: Separate information is not available for individual ports. However, it is estimated that in 2003 about 650,000 tonnes of container traffic entered the UK by lorry through ports in Essex, Greater London or Suffolk and had a final destination north of the M62[1].

[1] Including Greater Manchester, Merseyside and West Yorkshire Metropolitan Areas.

Source:
"Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport 2003"

Departmental Finance and Payroll Contract

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Partners Achieving Change Together (PACT) contract was let; and whether PACT work was offered to open competition via a notice in the *Official Journal of the European Community* prior to being let. [6556]

Ms Buck: The PACT contract was let in September 2002. It was tendered under OJEC competitive procurement rules, supported by the OGC gateway review process. Nine respondents were long-listed, three were short-listed and negotiations undertaken with two.

Leeds Supertram

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to make an announcement on the proposed Supertram scheme in Leeds; and if he will make a statement. [8382]

Derek Twigg: The Secretary of State made clear the position on the Supertram scheme in his Oral statement last summer on 20 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 159. Since then revised proposals have been submitted for consideration and will be decided upon in due course.

Light Rail Schemes

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many light rail schemes have been completed and opened since 1997. [9016]

Mr. Darling: The following light rail schemes have been completed and opened since 1997:

Midland Metro—1999

Docklands Light Railway extension to Lewisham—1999

Croydon Tramlink—2000

Manchester Metrolink Phase II (to Eccles)—2000

Tyne and Wear Metro Sunderland extension—2002

Nottingham Express Transit—2004

Railways

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers per train there were on the North London line in each year since 1997. [8392]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally by the Department or the Strategic Rail Authority.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passengers travelled from Shenfield to Heathrow in each month since 2003. [8537]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally by the Department or the Strategic Rail Authority.

Repatriation (Airline Failures)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings have taken place between officials in his Department and officials in the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office to discuss arrangements to repatriate UK passengers in the event of a major airline failure. [8395]

Ms Buck: The Government have in place contingency plans to deal with crises, including a major airline failure, and officials from this Department have met Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials on a number of occasions to discuss these arrangements.

Secure Station Scheme

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stations there are in Greater London; if he will list those which have been accredited since 1998 under the secure station scheme; and what the *(a)* date of accreditation, *(b)* the dates of re-accreditation and *(c)* when accreditation lapsed was in each case. [8075]

Ms Buck: Stations are awarded secure stations status for a two year period once they have met the required accreditation standards on station design, station management, crime management, and passenger perceptions.

There are 615 rail stations in Greater London, including 34 Docklands Light Rail and 257 London Underground stations. Of these stations 131 have been accredited since 1998 under the secure stations scheme, consisting of 55 first time accreditations, 31 re-accreditations and 45 lapsed stations. A list detailing these stations along with their respective accreditation, re-accreditation and lapsed dates has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Travel Industry

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has held with *(a)* the Association of British Travel Agents, *(b)* the Federation of Tour Operators and *(c)* the Association of Independent Tour Operators on the regulatory burden on the travel industry. [8305]

Ms Buck: On 23 June 2005 I met representatives of the Association of Independent Tour Operators to discuss their concerns on the regulatory burden in the travel industry. On 3 May 2005 officials from this Department met representatives of the Association of British Travel Agents and the Federation of Tour Operators to discuss the same issue.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* total value and *(b)* percentage of total expected revenue of vehicle excise duty evasion is estimated to have been in each year since 1997–98. [5185]

Dr. Ladyman: Estimates of vehicle excise duty (VED) evasion are made by national roadside surveys undertaken by DfT statisticians. Surveys were carried out in 1994, 1999, 2002 and the latest survey took place in June 2004.

	Estimated value of loss through VED evasion (£ million)	*Estimated percentage of revenue due*
1994	200	4.1
1999	191	3.9
2002	206	4.8
2004	129	3.4

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) asked the Defence Export Services Organisation for *(a)* information and *(b)* co-operation in respect of the SFO's investigation into allegations of bribery and false accounting concerning BAE Systems and Saudi Arabian officials. [8129]

The Solicitor-General: The question relates to an ongoing criminal investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO). In the circumstances, it would not be appropriate to either confirm or deny whether the SFO has approached a particular individual or entity.

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General how much has been spent on the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last 10 years. [6575]

The Solicitor-General: The following table gives the net expenditure on the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last 10 years. Expenditure is reported in cash terms from 1995–96 to 2000–01 and in resource terms thereafter.

	£000
1995–96	296,002
1996–97	299,412
1997–98	299,691
1998–99	307,417
1999–2000	308,774
2000–01	343,382
2001–02	427,975
2002–03	459,665
2003–04	525,619
2004–05	575,554

WORK AND PENSIONS

Autism

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to help people with autism find employment; and if he will make a statement. [7740]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* Our specialist Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs), who are based in jobcentres, receive training and guidance to help them support people with health conditions and disabilities into employment, including people with autism. The support provided by DEAs includes advice

on jobs and training, as well as information on in-work support, and specialist programmes to help overcome barriers to employment associated with disability.

All our Jobcentre Plus advisers have access to a Disability Awareness Open Learning Handbook, which includes information on autistic spectrum disorders; the effects they have on individuals, the implications for work, and the possible types of support an individual might need in employment. This information was approved by the National Autistic Society and is recommended learning for all advisers, and mandatory learning for DEAs. We are currently working with the society on further enhancements.

All Jobcentre Plus staff, including DEAs, also have access to information on a range of disabilities, including autism, through guidance on our Intranet.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people declared part-time earnings while claiming incapacity benefit in each of the last five years. [8497]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Jobcentres

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what representations he has received about the reduction of staff numbers in local job centres; [7306]

(2) what plans he has to reduce the number of staff at Jobcentre Plus offices. [7307]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 29 June 2005]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie to Mr. Hugo Swire, dated 30 June 2005:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions concerning what representations he has received about the reduction of staff numbers in local Jobcentres, and what plans he has to reduce the number of staff at Jobcentre Plus offices. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As announced in the 2004 Spending Review, the Department has plans to reduce overall staff numbers by 30,000 by 31 March 2008. Jobcentre Plus has agreed with the Department that its contribution towards that overall reduction would be a headcount target for March 2008 of 65,672 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff. To provide some context for that figure, at the end of May 2005 Jobcentre Plus employed 72,888 FTE staff.

There have been several representations to the Secretary of State on this subject. In addition, we are consulting closely with our recognised trade unions on the steps we are taking to meet our efficiency challenge. We consulted them whilst developing our Human Resources policies and procedures and reached a formal agreement in November 2004 on avoiding or, if that is not possible, minimising compulsory redundancies.

I hope this is helpful.

Mental Capacity Act

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to bring appointeeships in line with the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. [7082]

Mrs. McGuire: Officials are currently discussing the Act's draft Code of Conduct with officials of the Department for Constitutional Affairs, who are responsible for the implementation of the Act. They will also have discussions with the Making Decisions Alliance in the near future.

TREASURY

Tax Credits

13. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received regarding the operation of the tax credit system. [8154]

Dawn Primarolo: Since April 2005 tax credits have been the subject of debate or statements on a number of occasions in both Houses:

6 April 2005, Westminster Hall Debate (column 437WH)

7 June 2005, Westminster Hall Debate (column 47WH)

26 May 2005, Paymaster General's statement (column 23WS)

22 June 2005, Paymaster General's statement (column 801)

22 June 2005, Paymaster General's statement repeated in the House of Lords. (column 1677)

Various representations have been made on each of these occasions, to which Ministers responded at the time.

I have also answered several questions in the House and replied to letters from Members and others.

The Ombudsman's Office and Citizens Advice have also sent me copies of their reports published on 22 June.

22. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in overpayment of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* working family tax credit is owed to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. [8163]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of numbers and values of child tax credit and working tax credit overpayments for 2003–04 awards at 5 April 2004, appear in the HMRC publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2003–04. Supplement on payments in 2003–04." The estimates are based on samples and are subject to significant sampling uncertainty. This publication can be found in the Library.

Working families' tax credit awards were based on a snapshot of income and circumstances around the time of claim, and were then fixed at a specific amount regardless of any rise or fall in income for 26 weeks.

23. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will simplify the tax credits system so that it can be explained to applicants in significantly fewer pages of guidance notes than at present. [8164]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House on 26 May 2005, *Official Report*, columns 22–23WS, setting out six measures to improve tax credits and, in particular, with regard to how HMRC communicate with families about their tax credits award.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the operation of the tax credits system. [8140]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) in the Chamber this morning.

Child Poverty

14. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made towards the target of eradicating child poverty within a generation; and what further action he intends to take in furtherance of meeting this target. [8155]

Dawn Primarolo: Child poverty more than doubled between 1979 and 1997, and was higher in the UK than anywhere else in the EU.

This Government's policy is that every child should have the opportunity to fulfil its potential. We have already lifted more than half a million children out of relative poverty, and are broadly on track to eradicate child poverty by reducing child poverty by a quarter in a quarter of the time.

Our strategy was set out in the Child Poverty Review last summer. We intend to go further by:

helping more people who want to work find work;

by providing financial support to help families with the costs of children;

by implementing our 10 Year Strategy for Childcare;

and by investing in our children's future so that by 2007–08 total funding for schools will be 60 per cent. higher than in 1996–97.

Debt Relief

15. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on his proposals for debt relief at the G8 summit. [8156]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Last month G7 finance ministers agreed a detailed plan to match 100 per cent. bilateral debt write off with 100 per cent. multilateral debt cancellation for the 38 heavily indebted poor countries.

This covers debts owed to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and African Development fund of some $55 billion. 18 countries will have their debts cancelled immediately, worth around $40 billion once the plan is agreed by IMF and World Bank boards.

21. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress is being made towards 100 per cent. multilateral debt relief. [8162]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Last month G7 Finance Ministers agreed a detailed plan to match 100 per cent. bilateral debt write off with 100 per cent. multilateral debt cancellation for the 38 heavily indebted poor countries.

This covers debts owed to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and African Development fund of some 55 billion dollars. 18 countries will have their debts cancelled immediately, worth around 40 billion dollars once the plan is agreed by IMF and World Bank boards.

Borrowing Forecast

16. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes he expects in the level of Government net borrowing in the next five years. [8157]

Mr. Des Browne: Budget projections show that net borrowing is expected to fall to a prudent level of 1.5 per cent. of GDP by 2009–10.

Shared Appreciation Mortgages

17. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on shared appreciation mortgages. [8158]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government understand the concerns of people who purchased shared appreciation mortgages in the mid 1990s. However, to date no evidence of mis-selling has been found by the Financial Ombudsman Service.

G8 (Economic Objectives)

19. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on his economic objectives for the Gleneagles summit. [8160]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At their meeting on 10–11 June chaired by the Chancellor, Finance Ministers prepared the economic and financial aspects of the G8 summit. They agreed: that vigorous action was required by each member country to support a smooth adjustment to more balanced growth; a wide-ranging set of actions to improve the operation of the oil market to manage high and volatile prices; and a comprehensive package of measures on debt relief, aid and development. All these agreements will be reflected in discussions at Gleneagles.

Foreign Currency Reserves

20. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the value of the foreign currency reserves of the UK. [8161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details of the UK Official Holdings of International Reserves are released monthly and are available from the Treasury website. The latest figures for the end of May, were gross reserves of $47,718 million, equivalent to £26,183 million when converted using the (4 pm) closing market rate of £1 = $1.8225 on 31 May.

National Insurance

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much was raised from national insurance contributions in 2004–05. [8153]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As set out in the Budget, national insurance contribution receipts for 2005–05 are forecasted to be £77.9 billion.

Stamp Duty

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer How much tax was raised from stamp duty in the *(a)* 1997–98 and *(b)* 2004–05 financial years. [8159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Stamp duty on property transactions raised £1.5 billion in 1997–98, and stamp duty land tax, which replaced stamp duty in 2003, raised £6.3 billion in 2004–05.

Stamp duty on transactions in the shares of UK incorporated companies raised £1.96 billion in 1997–98. The figure for the 2004–05 financial year will be published in September.

Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he has had with other Departments on sustainable development. [8149]

John Healey: I regularly meet DEFRA and other Ministers to discuss a range of issues including sustainable development. HM Treasury is also actively involved in discussions on this important issue.

HOME OFFICE

Cherie Blair (Security Arrangements)

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what arrangements were made to ensure the safety of the Prime Minister's wife when she visited the US in June; and what the costs were; [7536]

(2) what security arrangements have been put in place for the Prime Minister's wife's visit to the Starhill Boutique complex in Kuala Lumpur on 31 July; and what the estimated costs are. [7545]

Mr. Charles Clarke: We seek to ensure the most effective and efficient protective security arrangements for public figures in the light of the changing threat from terrorism and other continuing risks. It is not our policy to comment on the details or costs of protective security arrangements for any individual, as to do so could compromise his or her security.

Civil Servants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what value for money procurement savings were identified and what reduction in civil service posts occurred in his Department in 2004–05. [4545]

Mr. Charles Clarke: In pre-Budget report 2004, the Chancellor reported Office for Government Commerce (OGC) value for money gains in central civil Government procurement for 2003–04 of £2 billion. OGC value for money procurement gains for 2004–05 are being calculated and will be published in the 2005 Treasury autumn performance report.

In Budget 2005, the Chancellor announced a headcount reduction of 12,500 posts by the end of 2004–05, towards the Government's target of a gross reduction of 84,000 civil service and administrative posts by 2008. My Department's performance was reported in the 2005 Home Office annual report (Cm 6528); the size of the Department's headquarters was reduced by 876 full time equivalent posts.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter dated 10 May 2005 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Fanny Garvey. [7929]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 28 June.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter dated 10 May 2005 from the right hon. member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms. Zeinab Abdulrahman al-Hashmi. [7930]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 9 June.

Crime Figures

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* reported incidents and *(b)* judicial disposals of (i) violent crime, (ii) car crime, (iii) robbery and (iv) burglary there were in each of the last three years for each London borough; and what the percentage change in each case was in each year. [4776]

Hazel Blears: The available information relates to offences recorded and detected by each London borough. The statistics, including percentage changes, are available from the following web-links:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/cdrptabs.xls

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb703sup1.xls

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6268]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Following the recommendations of the Lyons Review, the Home Office is developing plans to relocate up to 2,200 posts out of London and the South East by 2010. This will not exclude consideration of moving some posts to relatively deprived areas of the South East.

Prison Education

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for improving education services in prisons. [3709]

Fiona Mactaggart: The way in which education and training are delivered in prisons, and the content of the learning offered, are changing. From August 2005, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will in three regions (the North West, North East and South West) take responsibility for delivering an integrated learning and skills service for offenders both in custody and the community, linking it much more explicitly with mainstream provision for post-16 learners. A greater focus on skills will lead to greater employability on release, thereby making a significant contribution to reducing re-offending. The remaining six regions in England will follow in August 2006.

The new service has at its heart the principle that education and training for offenders should be more flexible and learner centred. Literacy, language and numeracy will rightly continue to be a high priority for offender learning, but the new service will for the first time bring together the Education Service with

vocational training, in the context of a broader curriculum. The key change in the new arrangements is early, intense focus on assessing the offender learner's needs and preparing an individual learning plan that will set out learning needs—and achievements—as the individual moves through the criminal justice system, creating a seamless learning journey for offenders across prisons and probation and up to release.

The key features of the new learning and skills service are outlined in a document called the "Offender's Learning Journey", available at www.dfes.gov.uk/offenderlearning (you have to select the initiatives hyperlink to view the new delivery section.) The "Offender's Learning Journey" specifies the content of the learning and skills service to be supported by the LSC from August 2005.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of the *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth prison population were in education in each year between 1994 and 2004. [3247]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Prison Service do not collect centrally individual information on prisoners participating in learning and skills through its contracts with education providers.

However, the Youth Justice Board target is to provide all young people in young offender institutions with 25 hours per week of education, training and personal development.

For adults, a 2003 report published by the Learning and Skills Development Agency ('Education, Training, Assessment and Learner Support in HM Prisons and Young Offender Institutions'), found that 39 per cent. of prisoners were engaged in education and training.

Home Detention Curfew Scheme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the Home Detention Curfew Scheme. [3977]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Government consider the Home Detention Curfew Scheme (HDC) is working well and has no proposals for change.

The HDC scheme enables prisoners, primarily those serving sentences of between three months and under four years, to return to the community up to 135 days earlier than their normal release date (half-way point of the sentence). Prisoners must have a suitable address and pass a risk assessment before release can be granted. If considered suitable, prisoners are released under licence and are subject to an electronically monitored curfew, normally for 12 hours a day, at an address within England and Wales. If they breach the licence conditions they are liable to be returned to prison to serve the remaining custodial portion of their sentence in custody.

Certain categories of prisoners are statutorily excluded from HDC, including prisoners subject to the registration requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and prisoners serving extended sentences. In addition, prisoners with any history of sexual offending or serving sentences for certain serious offences are presumed unsuitable for release on HDC unless there are exceptional reasons to grant release.

Prisoners serving determinate sentences of four years or more whose offences were committed on or after 4 April 2005 are not statutorily excluded from HDC but they will be presumed unsuitable for release on HDC unless the governor considers there are exceptional circumstances.

Lost/Stolen Passports

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports have been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen since the introduction of secure delivery. [6375]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The secure delivery of passports commenced on 9 February 2004. Since that time, almost 8.25 million deliveries have been completed. Up to 31 March 2005 a total of 683 passports have been recorded as lost or stolen in the post and have not reached the intended customer. Of these, 217 have been confirmed as stolen, 77 passports have subsequently been recovered and the remaining 389 are considered lost, but remain under investigation by UKPS or SMS, as they are likely to have been misposted and may yet be returned. In comparison in the final year of the Royal Mail contract 3,593 passports were reported lost or stolen.

National Probation Directorate (Risk Assessment)

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the risk assessment commissioned by the National Probation Directorate in March. [4967]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Home Office published the National Probation Service (NPS) risk register, as agreed with the NPS Audit committee, identified as part of the 2005–06 Business Plan on the NPS website on 29 March. The summary of the risk was also published in the booklet that explains in detail the content of the 2005–06 Business Plan.

Victims of Crime (Online Information)

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the project to make it possible for victims of crime to track the progress of their case online was initiated; what stage the project has reached; whether it is on schedule; and what the latest estimate of the cost of the project is. [4998]

Fiona Mactaggart: The facility for victims of crime to track the progress of their case online was a target for the CJS IT programme in the SR2002 period (commencing 2003–04).

The "No Witness No Justice" (NWNJ) initiative is setting up witness care units that provides trained intermediaries, who understand the needs of victims and witnesses and will be more responsive to their individual requirements. The IT tool to support the witness case officers is being rolled out now, with the first release available from 20 June 2005. This offers officers access to existing case data stored on the Crown Prosecution Service's case management system plus the ability to search by witnesses. Enhancements will be available in November 2005 that will allow the officers to add/amend case details relating to victims and witnesses.

This IT support is being funded from within the CJS IT ring-fence, with allocations of £1.2 million in 2004–05 and £6.5 million in 2005–06.

Police (Assaults)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many policemen have been hospitalised following assaults while on active duty in each of the last five years. [5226]

Hazel Blears: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Prisons

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many additional prison places have been provided, and at what cost, in each of the last six years; what the average cost of building a new prison place is; and if he will make a statement. [4611]

Fiona Mactaggart: The number of prison places provided in each financial year since 2000–01, and the cost of providing these places, is provided in the table. These figures include both expansions at existing establishments and the construction of new prisons.

The average cost for providing these prison places is £99,839, also including both the costs of capacity expansions at existing prisons and the construction of new prisons.

Annex A

	Number of places provided	*Cost (£ million)*
2005–06	1,120	[1] —
2004–05	2,571	291.4
2003–04	1,372	136.5
2002–03	1,818	158.8
2001–02	1,013	105.2
2000–01	680	52.3

[1] The number of places for 2005–06 includes all places currently scheduled for delivery during 2005–06. Full details of costs for 2005–06 are not yet available.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people were held in adult prisons on the latest date for which figures are available. [2725]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 9 June 2005]:* On 30 April 2005 there were 3,287 young persons aged under 21. This includes some 21-year-olds who have not yet been reclassified as adults held in prison establishments which also hold adults, as recorded on the Prison Service IT system.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to change the maximum length of prison sentence that can be passed by a magistrate; and if he will make a statement. [1722]

Fiona Mactaggart: The maximum custodial penalty a magistrate can pass is currently six months for a single offence; the Criminal Justice Act 2003 increases this to 12 months. Implementation will be in September 2006.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has plans to penalise the contractors at HMP Rye Hill following its recent inspection and controller reports. [3874]

Fiona Mactaggart: Recent events, including the forthcoming HMIP inspection report of HMP Rye Hill, will be given due consideration by the Office for Contracted Prisons in deciding whether to penalise the contractor for failing to deliver against the contract. All available options will be considered, including the imposition of financial penalties.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of the finding of illicit alcohol there were at Rye Hill Prison during 2004–05 [3876]

Fiona Mactaggart: A total of 72 finds of illicit alcohol (fermenting liquid) were reported at HMP Rye Hill during the 2004–05 financial year.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the private finance initiative and public private partnership projects his Department is undertaking; and what the status of each is. [2372]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The table lists the private finance initiative and public private partnership projects which the Home Department is currently engaged and their status.

Home Office PFI/PPP projects

Commissioning body/project name	*Signed*	*Operational*
Home Office/IT 2000 (Sirius)	Yes	Yes
Youth Justice Board/STC Cookham Wood (Medway)	Yes	Yes
Youth Justice Board/STC Hassockfield	Yes	Yes
Youth Justice Board/STC Rainsbrook (Onley) Expansion	Yes	Yes
Youth Justice Board/STC Oakhill Expansion	Yes	Yes
STC HMP and YOI Ashfield/HMPS	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Altcourse	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Ashford	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Dovegate	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Forest Bank	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Lowdham Grange	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Pare	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Peterborough	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HMP Rye Hill	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/Quantum	Yes	Yes
Passport Service/PASS Project	Yes	Yes
Home Office/Home Office Central London Accommodation Strategy (2 Marsham Street)	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HES 1	Yes	Yes
Prison Service/HES 2	Yes	Yes

Probation Service/Resources

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what ratio of staff to clients is operated by the London Probation Service; and if he will make a statement. [2865]

Fiona Mactaggart: For every operational member of staff there are 60 offenders of whom 25 will be in prison and 35 in the community.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to target probation resources at *(a)* high risk and *(b)* very high risk offenders. [4994]

Fiona Mactaggart: The National Offender Management Model, sent to all probation areas in January, embodies the principle that resources should follow risk and, in particular, that greater resources should be devoted to those offenders who are assessed as being of high and very high risk of re-offending and of causing harm to the public. There is a tiering framework that helps offender managers to allocate offenders to the appropriate level of risk and resource.

All probation areas are required to implement the Model and have it fully operational for all community sentences by March 2006. The Model will then be used for all custodial sentences by March 2008.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), established by the Criminal Justice and Courts Services Act 2000 to reduce the serious re-offending behaviour of sexual and violent offenders and to protect the public, also embody the principle that resources follow risk.

Publication Costs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on producing publications in each year since 1997. [7006]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The amount spent by the Home Office on the printing of publications was:

	£
1999–2000	2,626,032.15
2000–01	3,128,079.64
2001–02	2,994,877.00
2002–03	2,492,883.96
2003–04	2,986,017.11
2004–05	2,233,511.70

The costs provided are those recorded centrally by the Home Office Communication Directorate. These are printing costs only. Other costs involved in production e.g. design, artwork have not been recorded centrally.

Data are not available before 1999 as prior to this date, publications spend was not recorded centrally.

Rape Crisis Organisations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many rape crisis organisations, and other organisations helping female survivors of sexual violence, received funding from his Department in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003 and *(d)* 2004; and how much each organisation received. [1519]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Home Office funded the rape crisis federation, an umbrella body for some 43 local rape crisis groups, from April 2001 until its closure in November 2003. Funding in the financial years between 2001 and 2004 was as follows:

	£
(a) 2001–02	406,000
(b) 2002–03	432,000
(c) 2003–04	209,800

In 2004 additional funding of £4 million over two financial years was placed in the victims fund to support the development of services for victims of sexual offending. In 2004–05 financial year, 45 organisations received funding to provide a range of community-based services to male and female victims of sexual violence. Of those, 34 organisations provide women-only or gender-neutral services. Details of victims fund awards for the 2004–05 financial year are set out in the table.

Victims fund—2004–05 grant funding

Organisation	*Client Group*	*Awarded funding (£)*
Breaking Free	Women victims and survivors of childhood sexual abuse	10,284
CIS'ters	Female adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse	23,350
Colchester Rape Crisis Line (CRCL)	Female victims of sexual violence	35,450
Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC)	All victims of sexual violence and abuse	8,120
Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC)	Female victims of sexual violence and abuse	4,910
Croydon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	All survivors of rape and/or childhood sexual abuse	27,080
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	All victims of sexual violence (aged 14 plus)	3,066
East Kent Rape Line	Female victims of sexual violence	9,688
Family Matters	All victims of childhood sexual abuse	5,752
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	All adult victims of sexual violence	6,102
Helping Everyone Abused Live (HEAL)	All victims of childhood sexual abuse	10,286
The Jigsaw Project	All victims of sexual violence	9,975
Lilith Project	Women experiencing violence	14,329
Merseyside Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	Female victims of sexual violence	12,672
National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC)	Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse	15,000
New Pathways	All victims of sexual violence	16,500
The NIA Project	Female victims of physical/sexual violence	8,960
North West Wales Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	All victims of sexual violence	7,685
One in Four	Adult victims of sexual violence	24,993
The Quetzal Project	Female victims of sexual abuse	46,000
Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group (RCCG)	All victims of sexual violence	18,200
Rape and Sexual Violence Project	All victims of sexual violence	12,500
Rights of Women	Female victims of sexual violence and abuse	21,000
Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advice Centre	All victims of sexual or domestic violence	18,036
Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service	Female victims of childhood sexual abuse.	12,500

Victims fund—2004–05 grant funding

Organisation	*Client Group*	*Awarded funding (£)*
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (SRC)	All victims of sexual violence	3,700
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC)	Female victims of sexual violence (aged 13 plus)	31,520
The Survivors Trust	Represents specialist voluntary sector organisations	32,800
Warrington Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	All victims of sexual violence	5,995
Warrington Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (linked with above recommendation)	All victims of sexual violence	7,745
Women's Counselling Service	Female victims of sexual violence	2,000
Women's Counselling and Therapy Service Leeds	Adult female survivors of childhood sexual abuse	670
Women and Girls Network	Female victims of sexual, physical or emotional violence	31,700
Women's Support Network	Female victims of domestic/sexual violence	19,450
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC)	Adult female victims of sexual violence	23,439

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to implement the recommendations of the 2002 review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. [4680]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Government response to the 2002 review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, was published in April 2003.

The Government accepted the majority of the review's recommendations and proposes to legislate as soon as there is an appropriate parliamentary opportunity.

UK-US Data Transfer

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the memoranda of understanding governing the exchange of information between the UK and US *(a)* governments and *(b)* law enforcement agencies. [4676]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The Home Office does not hold a comprehensive list of all agreements with the United States, and law enforcement agencies can negotiate memoranda of understanding with other countries on their own initiative.

Young Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes have been committed on school premises by persons under 18 years in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by category of offence. [5825]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 20 June 2005]:* The Home Office recorded crime statistics do not separately identify those offences which took place on school premises and so the information requested is not available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target is of the Youth Justice Board for the number of hours a week young offenders should spend in education; and how many juvenile establishments met this target in (i) 2002–03 and (ii) 2003–04. [4496]

Fiona Mactaggart: The targets for education in the custodial establishments for juvenile offenders with which the Youth Justice Board had contractual arrangements or service level agreements in 2002–03 and 2003–04 were as follows:

2002–03

Prison Service young offender institutions: 15 hours a week

Contracted-out young offender institution: no target

Secure training centres: 25 hours a week

Local authority secure children's homes: no target

2003–04

Prison Service young offender institutions: 20 hours a week

Contracted-out young offender institution: 30 hours a week

Secure training centres: 25 hours a week

Local authority secure children's homes: 25 hours a week

The Youth Justice Board reports performance against target as follows:

2002–03

14 of the 15 young offender institutions run by the Prison Service met the target.

Apart from one centre for a period in September, all secure training centres met the target.

There are no centrally-collected data relating to educational performance of local authority secure children's homes or the contracted-out young offender institution in 2002–03.

2003–04

10 of the 13 young offender institutions run by the Prison Service met the target.

All secure training centres met the target.

There is no centrally-collected data relating to educational performance of local authority secure children's homes or the contracted-out young offender institution in 2002–03.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aid Missions

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what provision the Government have made to continue aid missions in countries without British embassies. [7007]

Hilary Benn: DFID uses a number of management arrangements to administer its overseas aid programmes. A limited number of aid programmes are managed from the UK, while the majority are managed from offices in the country concerned. DFID Country Offices may be co-located with a British Embassy or High Commission, or may operate from stand-alone premises, depending on local circumstances. Were an Embassy to close in a country where we are already operating, we would review management arrangements. However, our aid programmes are not contingent on the presence of a British Embassy. Examples of countries where DFID operates successfully, but where there is no British Embassy, are Nicaragua and Kyrgyzstan.

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [7185]

Hilary Benn: The numbers of cases of computer hacking, fraud and theft in DFID were as follows:

	Hacking	*Fraud*	*Theft*
2001–02	0	0	8
2002–03	0	0	7
2003–04	1	0	7
2004–05	1	0	4

DFID computer systems were accessed illegally by computer hackers from outside the Department on one occasion in each of the years 2003–04 and 2004–05.

Debt Relief

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what bilateral and multilateral discussions have taken place regarding debt relief for *(a)* Bolivia, *(b)* Guyana, *(c)* Honduras, *(d)* Lao People's Democratic Republic and *(e)* Nicaragua. [6939]

Mr. Thomas: There have been extensive bilateral and multilateral discussions on debt relief for these countries. Most recently, both the Chancellor and I met President Jagdeo of Guyana to discuss debt relief among other issues.

Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LAO PDR), and Nicaragua are all classified as Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). They are therefore eligible for the debt relief being provided to HIPC countries that have demonstrated their commitment to poverty reduction. Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras and Nicaragua have all successfully completed the HIPC process. As part of this, their progress in reducing poverty and implementing economic reforms was discussed a number of times at the World Bank and other financial institutions. The Lao PDR is not opting for debt relief at present, so no such discussions have taken place.

Recently, G8 Finance Ministers agreed a further debt relief initiative which, when agreed by the Boards of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank, would cancel up to $55 billion worth of debt stock for 38 countries. Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras and Nicaragua are among 18 countries that would qualify for this assistance immediately. The proposal will be discussed at the World Bank and the IMF Annual Meetings.

Education (Millennium Development Goal)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to provide universal primary education in Africa. [5693]

Hilary Benn *[pursuant to the reply, 23 June 2005, Official Report, c. 1134W]:* There was a factual error in the final sentence of my original response. DFID has committed to providing £1.4 billion to education globally over the next three years, rather than to Africa alone as stated.

Everything but Arms Agreement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the remit of the Everything but Arms agreement is; and what assessment has been made of its effectiveness. [5621]

Hilary Benn: The Everything but Arms initiative (EBA) is the EU scheme to give all least developed countries duty and quota free access to the EU market for all products, except armaments. The scheme was introduced in February 2001. Three products, however, were deemed sensitive enough for the EU not to open its borders to them immediately. Full, unrestricted market access for these products—sugar, rice and bananas—is being phased in gradually and will be completed in 2009.

There have been several assessments of the effects of the scheme, including by the World Bank who concluded that the impact of EBA has been relatively limited, partly because the vast majority (some 99 per cent.) of EU imports from the LDCs are in products that the EU had already liberalised, and the complete removal of barriers to the key remaining products, rice, sugar and bananas has been delayed. There is a group of the LDCs for whom EU trade preferences on existing exports are not significant since these exports are mainly of products where the normal rate of duty is already zero. Export diversification is the key issue for these countries. For other LDCs, EU preferences have the potential to provide a more substantial impact on trade.

However, the World Bank assessment shows that only 50 per cent. of EU imports from those eligible LDCs, who are not from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) grouping, actually request preferential access to the EU. The prime reason for this low level of utilisation would appear to be the rules of origin—how or where a product can be produced in order to qualify for a preference. This is because in many cases, the criteria are set so that in practice an LDC must produce a product entirely within its borders, including any inputs or components, in order to qualify for preferential treatment. This requirement is beyond the

production capacity of most LDCs, and indeed does not reflect modern business and production patterns, where components or other inputs such as yarn or fabric are imported from the most competitive sources wherever they may be. The World Bank, and indeed many others, recommends more simple and liberal rules of origin to enhance the impact of EU trade preferences both in terms of improving market access and in stimulating diversification towards a broader range of exports. We have already seen this effect in certain African exports to the US, and some Asian exports to Canada.

The EU is currently reviewing its Rules of Origin, with a view to changing them. Building on the evidence available, the UK will be pressing to ensure that the changes better reflect current business practices and support, rather than hinder, the operation of preference schemes and the economic development these schemes are intended to stimulate.

Female Education (Africa)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards access to education for women in Africa. [6985]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* The most recent assessment of progress towards all the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)s) is a United Nations report published in June 2005.

The picture of girl's access to education is not uniform across Africa. As reported in the United Nations Millennium Development Goal Report (2005), Sub-Saharan Africa has made limited progress towards increasing girl's access to education. The most recently available figures from 2001 indicate that 86 girls per 100 boys are enrolled at primary school and 79 girls per hundred boys are enrolled in secondary school. The UN's 2004 chart shows that this region is not on track to meet the equal girls enrolment in primary and secondary school MDG targets by 2015 without dramatically scaled up efforts. However the picture is quite different in Northern Africa, with 93 and 96 girls per 100 boys enrolled in primary and secondary schools respectively and the region on track to meet both these MDG targets.

DFID puts a high priority on expanding primary school enrolment and promoting girls education in Africa.

Health Care (Developing Countries)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what discussions he has had with the World Bank on its policy on charging user fees for health care in developing countries; [6752]

(2) what plans there are to discuss charging of user fees for health care in developing countries at the G8 summit in July; [6753]

(3) what assessment he has made of the merits of charging user fees for health care in developing countries. [6754]

Hilary Benn: DFID's recent assessments are that official user fees contribute minimal amounts to the financing of public services. Additionally, official user fees are a significant barrier to poor people's access to basic health services. In the poorest countries, there has been little success implementing fee exemptions and waivers targeted to poor people. Evidence from Uganda and elsewhere suggests that removing official fees boosts access to services. Therefore, DFID strongly supports the removal of official user fees for basic health care.

Other fees and charges such as those for medicines, for transport to clinics, and informal or private charges for service, can be more significant in scale, both as a barrier to access and in terms of the revenue they generate. DFID supports the removal of other fees and charges, and helps countries to identify alternative sources of finance for basic health care.

The G8 summit will discuss financing of health care as part of the Africa agenda. To make improved access to services a reality, we are encouraging the removal of user fees and we are seeking significantly increased resources for health. At Gleneagles we are calling for an extra $50 billion a year in development assistance. DFID has regular policy discussions with the World Bank at both Headquarters and country level. This includes discussions on options for financing of health services—the World Bank does not have a blanket policy on user fees. We will continue to work with the World Bank, and other partners such as the World Health Organisation, in supporting countries to make progress towards universal access to basic health services.

International Development Organisations (Subscriptions)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government have committed to the *(a)* World Bank Group, *(b)* European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *(c)* European Investment Bank, *(d)* Asian Development Bank, *(e)* African Development Bank and *(f)* Inter American Development Bank in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) subscribed funds, (ii) unsubscribed funds and (iii) sums paid in capital. [6843]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The financing arrangements of the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank (AsDB), African Development Bank (AfDB) and Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB) are broadly similar in structure. Capital subscriptions were paid in when the UK joined these institutions, and further amounts are held by the UK, and other shareholders, as "callable" capital—that is money which the bank can draw upon if necessary. There have been no demands by these institutions on the UK's callable capital in the last five years.

These institutions make loans on different terms. Loans at or near market rates are provided to better-off countries, and are self-financing. In addition, each of these institutions has a concessional lending arm that provides low interest, long-term loans and grants to poorer countries. The funding for these concessional resources is supplemented—replenished—by donor governments on roughly three-year cycles. The following table shows the amounts committed by the UK to the replenishments over the last five years. There have been no replenishments for the Inter-American Development Bank during this time.

£ million

	International Development Association of the World Bank	African Development Fund of the AfDB	Asian Development Fund of the AsDB
2000–01	—	—	—
2001–02	—	—	84.7
2002–03	1,000	121.8	—
2003–04	—	—	—
2004–05	1,330	178.7	114.1

Note:
Commitments shown under 2004–05 are subject to parliamentary approval.

In addition to the amounts shown, "incentive" contributions have been agreed, which are conditional on progress being achieved in key areas. The amounts are £100 million for the World Bank and £27.5 million for the African Development Bank. The case for an additional contribution to the Asian Development Bank will be considered at the end of 2006.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was established in 1991. The UK share of the bank's capital is 8.5 per cent., which is around €1.7 billion. Of this, €446 million is paid-in capital, and the Government are making annual instalments of around £16 million to fulfil this commitment; the total amount will have been paid by 2009. EBRD does not make concessional loans.

After the enlargement of the European Union in 2004, the European Investment Bank's (EIB) capital was increased to €164 billion. The UK has a share of 16.3 per cent., which is €26.6 billion. Of this amount, only 5 per cent. is paid-in capital. In the last five years, there have been increases in the UK's share of the subscribed and paid-in capital but these have been fully paid from the European Investment Bank's Reserves. EIB lending is predominately non-concessional.

In addition to the contributions we provide to these institutions' core budgets, DFID provides funding to forward particular objectives or to finance specific projects and activities. Such financing includes country specific trust funds, for example for Afghanistan; funding for research and analysis; and resources for centrally-managed initiatives such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries' Trust Fund, which channels donor resources to assist multilateral organisations provide their share of debt relief to countries.

Iraq

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to the government of Iraq in developing *(a)* running water, *(b)* sanitation *(c)* electricity and *(d)* gas services. [6936]

Hilary Benn: DFID has committed more than £70 million in bilateral assistance towards improved water, electricity and fuel supplies in southern Iraq, to the benefit of over five million people. £20 million was spent on an Emergency Infrastructure Programme in 2003 and 2004, and a further £18 million has been committed for quick-impact emergency infrastructure rehabilitation in 2004 and 2005. A new £40 million power, water and fuel project began in April 2005, which will provide technical advice to the Ministry of Electricity in Baghdad on the development of a national energy strategy as well as improving infrastructure in southern Iraq.

DFID also funds a team of technical advisers to help co-ordinate reconstruction projects in line with Iraqi priorities in southern Iraq, working closely with the UK military, the US Project and Contracting Office (PCO) and other donors.

Further DFID support for essential services in Iraq has been channelled through UN agencies. Full details of DFID's contribution to reconstruction in Iraq can be found at www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/iraq.asp.

Latin America

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on Latin America's progress towards reaching the millennium development goals by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [7364]

Mr. Thomas: Latin America's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been very uneven. Each country has made different degrees of progress towards different targets, and at widely varying speeds.

The region appears to be on track to meet its 2015 targets for education, access to water and sanitation, and reducing hunger. In particular, rapid progress has been made towards reducing the prevalence of underweight children, universalising net enrolment in primary schools, reducing child and infant mortality, and increasing the proportion of the population with access to improved water sources. Insufficient progress has been made, however, on getting all children to actually complete primary school, halting the spread of HIV, and reversing the loss of environmental resources. Mixed progress has been made on income poverty and hunger reduction, the coverage of improved sanitation, and the various indicators of gender equity. While the proportion of the region's population living in slums has fallen slightly, absolute numbers have actually increased. Because of data limitations, it is very difficult to assess progress on improving maternal health.

Even within countries, there tend to be marked differentials between ethnic groups and different geographic regions. Because Latin America has such high levels of inequality, it is important not to let national average figures obscure these pockets of poverty and social exclusion.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in working with the *(a)* Inter-American Development Bank and *(b)* World Bank to improve the access of poor and excluded people in Latin America to (i) local and national markets and (ii) international trade. [7369]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has recently concluded the design of a new £7.6 million programme (the Latin America Markets and International Trade programme) to help the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and World Bank to better facilitate increased access of poor

people in Latin America to markets and the benefits of international trade. The design of the programme has involved extensive dialogue with these Banks as well with non-governmental organisations and other partners. It will be implemented over the next four years and will be evaluated in 2006–07 and at its conclusion in 2008–09.

The programme will build on other existing and planned co-operation between DFID and the Banks. In Bolivia, for example, the IDB's participation in DFID's 'Making Markets Work for the Poor' project has provided lessons for a large IDB project to support access to markets of poor, small-scale farmers. In Nicaragua, DFID will be supporting greater access of poor people to markets in the eco-tourism sector in a way that is intended to influence both IDB municipal development projects as well as a World Bank competitiveness project in the country.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* ultilateral expenditure has been in each year since 1997 in (i) each country in Latin America and (ii) Latin America; and if he will ake a statement. [7370]

Hilary Benn: DFID's bilateral expenditure for prior years was as follows:

£ million

Country	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Costa Rica	0.30	0.21	0.12	0.18	0.12	0.07	0.12
El Salvador	0.21	0.30	0.32	1.82	0.43	0.34	0.11
Guatemala	0.40	0.48	0.37	0.32	0.42	0.29	0.24
Honduras	1.17	2.58	2.10	1.37	1.22	1.18	0.91
Mexico	4.05	3.79	2.17	1.54	0.51	0.56	0.07
Nicaragua	1.01	2.00	1.15	0.64	0.61	1.37	1.03
Panama	0.43	0.37	0.32	0.23	0.16	0.04	—
Central America Regional	—	10.42	1.41	0.86	2.41	4.39	4.41
Argentina	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.01	—	—	—
Bolivia	4.40	4.36	6.33	7.59	12.68	9.32	7.06
Brazil	7.02	7.48	6.39	6.78	7.00	11.24	7.06
Chile	1.14	1.03	0.41	—	0.10	0.15	0.40
Colombia	2.23	2.62	1.54	1.73	0.93	0.60	0.40
Ecuador	1.52	1.10	0.75	0.54	0.28	0.36	0.19
Paraguay	0.20	0.26	0.26	0.18	0.09	0.07	—
Peru	4.07	3.73	4.51	4.30	8.17	3.40	2.82
Uruguay	0.22	0.25	0.30	—	—	—	—
Venezuela	0.18	0.18	0.94	0.04	—	—	—
Latin America Regional	0.35	0.85	0.17	0.22	0.53	1.45	1.37

Figures are not yet available for 2004–05. It is not possible to disaggregate funding through our regional programmes on a country basis. However, most countries in Central and Latin America will have benefited from our regional programmes.

Multilateral institutions record funding by calendar year. The UK share of funding of grants and concessional lending by these institutions was as follows:

£ million

Country	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Central American countries						
Costa Rica	0.28	0.89	0.38	0.32	0.29	0.25
El Salvador	1.90	2.27	1.41	2.31	2.02	2.04
Guatemala	2.90	3.39	3.10	3.36	2.58	3.73
Honduras	5.28	5.49	5.05	4.65	12.54	1.73
Mexico	1.05	1.06	1.09	1.00	3.00	1.16
Nicaragua	5.79	10.71	5.94	10.65	9.88	3.31
Panama	0.43	0.50	0.50	0.59	0.50	1.31
Latin American Countries						
Argentina	1.50	2.56	3.63	3.25	15.71	[1]-6.07
Bolivia	9.88	8.47	2.41	6.58	11. 54	0.68
Brazil	3.05	4.51	5.66	8.78	14.12	11.17
Chile	2.19	0.70	0.49	0.98	1.18	[1]-0.74
Colombia	2.65	1.25	1.64	2.43	2.11	1.80
Ecuador	0.93	1.63	1.29	1.25	0.83	1.07
Paraguay	0.80	0.51	0.57	0.78	0.96	0.98
Peru	2.42	9.29	3.50	4.02	3.06	1.91
Uruguay	0.37	0.49	0.37	0.44	0.35	0.31
Venezuela	0.48	0.85	0.51	1.52	0.79	0.90

[1] Debt repayments on concessional lending exceeded new grants and concessional loans to these countries.

Figures are not yet available for calendar years 2003 and 2004.

Malarial Infection

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has invested in research into the role fungal spores may play in combating malarial infection. [7732]

Hilary Benn: Neither DFID nor the EC have invested in research specifically into the role that fungal spores can play in combating malarial infection. Research in this area was funded in the UK by the Wellcome Trust. The possible use of fungal spores is a recent addition to the range of interventions which play a role in malaria control, of which DFID funds research into new drug development, improved health systems and bed nets totalling £2 million per year.

Medical Staff (Developing World)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the UK's recruitment of medical staff from the developing world. [7896]

Hilary Benn: The UK is the only developed country to have implemented and reviewed policies that explicitly prevent the targeting of developing countries for recruitment of health workers. The Code of Practice for International Recruitment of Healthcare Professionals

(available at http://www.dh.gov.uk), prevents the NHS from actively recruiting healthcare professionals from low and middle-income countries unless there is a government-to-government agreement in place. The code of practice was revised and strengthened last year to widen its scope to include temporary workers and to enable all healthcare organisations, including in the independent sector, to sign up to its principles.

Middle East

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential danger from asbestos and other materials in the rubble of settlement buildings cleared by Israel in connection with the Gaza disengagement plan; and what sources have offered funding to tackle the problem. [7480]

Hilary Benn: DFID takes very seriously the potential danger from asbestos and other materials caused by the demolition of settlement buildings by Israel during its disengagement from Gaza. We understand that a World Bank expert is in place to advise Israeli and Palestinian authorities on the issue of rubble disposal. We have no current plans to carry out our own assessment. DFID is supporting the Rapid Action Programme being drawn up by James Wolfensohn, the Quartet's Special Envoy for Disengagement.

Millennium Development Goals

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. [6938]

Hilary Benn: Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals varies. The world is on track to meet the poverty reduction goal. The number of people in Asia living on less than $1 a day dropped by nearly a quarter of a billion between 1990 and 2001. However progress toward the other seven goals is more varied. Sub Saharan Africa in particular will not meet any of the goals by 2015 if current rates of progress continue. The Commission for Africa chaired by the Prime Minister has set out plans for faster progress including action by African governments, and stronger support by international partners. The UK has made Africa central to our presidency of the G8 this year. We are looking for the Gleneagles G8 summit next week, and the Millennium Review Summit in September, to further strengthen international support to Africa through aid, debt relief and trade.

The recently published United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report is a comprehensive account of progress to date on each of the goals, and how great an effort remains necessary to meet them. It can be found at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_dev_report.htm. DFID also published a report in January 2005 titled The UK's contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals'. A copy of the report is available in the House of Commons Library.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the Government have for the further deployment of British troops to Afghanistan. [6934]

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) where the additional *(a)* air forces and *(b)* ground forces will be based when additional UK forces are deployed in Afghanistan; and in what numbers; [7608]

(2) when the planned reinforcement of UK forces in Afghanistan will begin. [7607]

John Reid: It remains our intention to deploy the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps for nine months from May 2006 in command of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, as announced by the Prime Minister last June. The Government keep the deployment of our armed forces to Afghanistan under constant review.

Catterick Infantry Training Centre

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the maximum capacity for recruits is of each Catterick Infantry Training Centre battalion; [7611]

(2) how many recruits are under training at Catterick Infantry Training Centre (ITC) *(a)* broken down by divisions of infantry and *(b)* in each ITC battalion. [7610]

Mr. Touhig: The maximum capacity for recruits at the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick) (ITC(C)) is limited by the number of bed spaces available to recruits.

Currently, these are as follows:

Battalion	*Bed spaces*
1st	810
2nd	850
3rd	710
4th (For those temporarily medically unfit)	130

In addition, there are 400 surge bed spaces available at Wathgill Camp, some 10 miles from ITC(C).

The numbers of recruits under training at ITC(C) as at 24 June 2005, broken down by Division, are as follows:

Division	*Number under training*
Kings	180
Queens	190
Light	130
1st Battalion total	490
Scottish	150
Prince of Wales	160
2nd Battalion total	310
Guards	210
Paras	100
Gurkha	230
3rd Battalion total	540

Notes:
1. There are also currently 90 soldiers in 4th Battalion who are temporarily medically unfit.
2. All data has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many infantry combatant's courses at Catterick Infantry Training Centre have been cancelled over the past 12 months. [7612]

Mr. Touhig: In the last 12 months, three Combat Infantryman's Courses, scheduled to start on 2, 16 and 30 August 2004, were cancelled at the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick). All applicants for these courses have, however, been offered alternative courses, and none has been turned away.

Departmental Relocation

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's posts *(a)* have been relocated and *(b)* are under consideration for relocation from London to the deprived areas of the South East. [6253]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence is implementing the Lyons Review recommendations to relocate 3,900 posts out of London and the South East by 2010. This will not exclude from consideration relocation of some posts to relatively deprived areas in the South East. So far, the Ministry of Defence has not identified any posts suitable for transfer to such areas.

First World War Medal Index Cards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that the information contained on both sides of first world war medal index cards is digitally stored; and if he will make a statement; [7985]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that digital copies of first world war medal index cards are of good quality; and if he will make a statement. [7986]

Mr. Touhig: The index cards to the first world war army medal rolls are already preserved in a microfilmed format, an activity commenced by The National Archives in 1985, and available to researchers at The National Archives (in Class WO 372) and through the National Archives website online. The microfilming process captured the information held on the front of the cards, all but a very small percentage of the backs of the cards being blank.

The Ministry of Defence has no further administrative use for the cards and, with The National Archives, has actively sought to identify a suitable institution prepared to accept the original cards, understanding the value attached to such records by many people. The Imperial War Museum has accepted the women's cards and the remainder of the collection has been transferred into the custody of the Western Front Association.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what institutions his Department has approached with a view to finding a home for the original first world war medal index cards; and if he will make a statement; [7987]

(2) when he expects to make a decision on whether to retain the original first world war medal index cards; and if he will make a statement. [7988]

Mr. Touhig: The Ministry of Defence, together with The National Archives, has held discussions with the Imperial War Museum (IWM), the National Army Museum, the Fleet Air Arm Museum, the Women's Library and with representatives of Lancashire Military Museums. The future of the cards has also been discussed with the Western Front Association, into whose custody the majority of the cards have now been transferred. The women's cards have been passed to the IWM.

Front-line Fitness

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) officers and (ii) other ranks have been declared unfit for front line duty in the (A) Army, (B) Royal Navy, (C) Royal Air Force and (D) Royal Marines in each year since 1997. [6994]

Mr. Ingram: Data on the number of downgraded personnel are not available prior to 2002. Available statistics on medical downgrading are shown in the following table. This table shows all personnel who are not fully deployable. Some personnel are classified as having limited deployability, so may be deployed overseas and make a contribution to deployed operational capability.

Trained UK regular forces[1]: numbers medically downgraded by gender

Number

	1 April 2002			*1 April 2003*		
	Total	*Male*	*Female[2]*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female[2]*
Officers						
Royal Navy[3]	[4]	[4]	[4]	250	200	50
Royal Marines[3,5]	[4]	[4]	[4]	20	20	[4]
Army[5]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Royal Air Force	520	390	120	580	420	160
Other Ranks						
Royal Navy[3]	[4]	[4]	[4]	2,090	1,690	400
Royal Marines[3]	[4]	[4]	[4]	540	540	10
Army	9,450	8,270	1,190	10,290	9,010	1,280
Royal Air Force	3,350	2,690	660	3,560	2,840	720

	1 April 2004			*1 January 2005*		
	Total	*Male*	*Female[2]*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female[2]*
Officers						
Royal Navy[3]	260	210	60	280	210	60
Royal Marines[3,5]	20	20	[4]	10	10	[4]
Army[5]	[4]	[4]	[4]	1,020	820	200
Royal Air Force	590	430	160	580	420	160
Other Ranks						
Royal Navy[3]	2,370	1,910	460	2,340	1,860	480
Royal Marines[3]	710	700	10	600	600	10
Army	11,720	10,250	1,460	12,970	11,420	1,560
Royal Air Force	3,760	2,980	780	3,860	3,040	820

[1] UK regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reservists and naval activated reservists.
[2] Female downgrades include personnel medically downgraded due to pregnancy.
[3] Data for medically downgraded personnel within the Royal Navy and Royal Marines are not available prior to April 2003.
[4] Denotes not available

[5] There are no female Royal Marine officers.
[6] Denotes not applicable
[7] Army officer data are not available prior to August 2004 due to inaccurate classification of a high proportion of untrained and newly trained officers.
Note:
1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Due to the rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts.
3. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of lessons to be learned on the provision of appropriate and adequate security arrangements by UK troops in Iraq from the experiences at Camp Breadbasket; and if he will make a statement. [2717]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence constantly reviews its security arrangements in the light of lessons learned on operations. In the case of Breadbasket, the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Mike Jackson, has appointed a senior military officer to assess what lessons might be learned. It is intended to publish the findings once all the trials of alleged deliberate abuse of Iraqis have been completed.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he or his officials have had with the United States about the future withdrawal of troops from Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [6933]

John Reid: I hold regular discussions with our coalition partners, including the United States, about progress in establishing a free, stable and democratic Iraq. We have made it very clear during these discussions that the United Kingdom is committed to Iraq for as long as the Iraqi Government judge that the coalition is required to provide security and to assist the Iraqi Security Forces.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for handing back provinces within Multinational Division (South Central)'s Area of Responsibility to Iraqi security forces' command and control. [7604]

Mr. Ingram: Transitional issues in Multinational Division (Centre-South) are a matter for Poland as the framework nation for this area. Coalition forces across Iraq are working closely with the Iraqi Transitional Government and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to ensure that the ISF have the necessary capability and capacity to take control of security in all areas of Iraq as soon as possible.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for operational control of areas of Multinational Division (South Central)'s Area of Responsibility once Polish forces withdraw from Iraq. [7605]

John Reid: We currently have no plans to deploy UK forces to MND (Centre-South) or other areas outside the boundaries of the UK's present area of responsibility in Multinational Division (South East).

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many representations have been made to UK military authorities in Iraq by prisoners of war of *(a)* Iraqi and *(b)* other nationality in relation to rights under article 78 of the third Geneva convention. [7901]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom does not hold any Prisoners of War in Iraq. The UK holds a number of security internees at the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility (DTDF) in Southern Iraq. The conditions of internment of security internees are governed by Geneva convention IV. Article 101 of Geneva convention IV covers the rights of internees to express complaints about their conditions of internment.

Security internees regularly make representations regarding their conditions of internment. Such representations are generally made directly with the staff at the DTDF and are not held centrally. They are taken seriously, and reasonable requests from internees, for example for changes to the menu, are accommodated where possible. Internees also have the right to make representations to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) about any issue related to their internment. The ICRC have regular and unrestricted access to the DTDF and to all internees held there.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the legal basis for the bombing of Iraq by RAF aircraft in the second half of 2002 was; and what proportion of ordnance was released in response to actual or imminent attack. [7262]

John Reid *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The legal basis for the operation of the No Fly Zones over Iraq was the need to avert an immediate and overwhelming humanitarian catastrophe threatened by the then Iraqi Government against the people living on the ground in those zones. This was combined with a need to monitor the effect of UNSCR 688 which demanded that Saddam Hussein cease the repression of his people. RAF aircraft attacked only targets which were an actual or imminent threat to coalition aircraft or were contributing to such a threat, namely air defence related assets. Thus, all the ordnance released was in response to an actual or imminent attack on coalition forces.

Jet Pilots (Flying Hours)

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of effects on cost of the temporary reduction in the monthly flying hours for RAF fast jet pilots from 17.5 hours to 16.5 hours during 2005–06. [7889]

Mr. Ingram: About £20 million will be saved as a result of the temporary reduction of average monthly flying hours for RAF fast jet pilots from 17.5 to 16.5 hours a month in 2005–06.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to increase flying hours for RAF fast jet pilots to 17.5 hours per month. [7891]

Mr. Ingram: On current plans, yes.

Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list, with dates, those occasions when UK

Government Ministers have discussed with the US Administration issues relating to technology transfer on the Joint Strike Fighter project. [6833]

Mr. Ingram: Regular discussions take place at all levels with the US Administration on all aspects of JSF including technology transfer. MOD and other Ministers continue to raise this issue during their discussions with key members of the US Administration.

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether full technology transfer on the Joint Strike Fighter project is a prerequisite for the UK remaining a part of this programme; and if he will make a statement. [6835]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has set out the information access required to enable the United Kingdom to operate, sustain and upgrade the Joint Strike Fighter. Negotiations are at an early stage, and the United States understands that these issues will be a key consideration as the UK makes further commitments in the Joint Strike Fighter programme.

Joint US Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in how many joint operations with US forces UK aircraft have been involved since May 2003. [6889]

Mr. Ingram: British fast jet aircraft have been deployed on two major coalition operations alongside US forces in the wider middle east—Operation Telic, concentrated in Iraq, and Operation Herrick, in Afghanistan. In the conduct of these wider operations, numerous smaller operations are routinely undertaken by US and UK forces working together.

Kosovo (Troop Deployment)

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to send additional troops to Kosovo in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [8365]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom has no plans to send additional troops to Kosovo in 2005.

The UK contributes some 180 troops to the NATO operation in Kosovo. In addition we provide a battalion to the Balkans-wide over the horizon operational reserve force, along with Germany and Italy. Should NATO request the deployment of this asset to Kosovo the UK would respond accordingly, just as we did in March 2004 and March 2005.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the incidents resulting in spillages of radioactive material during recent work on Vanguard class submarines. [6795]

Mr. Ingram: On 7 and 10 June 2005, during the preliminary commissioning of the Primary Circuit Decontamination (PCD) facility, which will be used during the Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) of HMS Victorious at Devonport, two small leakages of water occurred. Some parts of the equipment had previously been used in the overhaul of another nuclear-powered submarine and, as a result, the water contained very low levels of radioactivity, barely above background levels. The water was contained within the dry dock and no radioactivity was released to the environment.

Nuclear safety remains of paramount importance and while these incidents were minor and did not present any hazard to the workforce or to the public, they could have been avoided. For this reason, the Environment Agency served an Enforcement Notice on the nuclear site licensee, Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd. (who trade as Devonport Management Ltd.), which required the company to review and, where appropriate, improve the arrangements for controlling the release of radioactive waste to the environment. Accordingly, DRDL suspended PCD commissioning activities. These recommenced on 23 June 2005 once the recommendations from the review had been implemented. The PCD equipment is not due to be connected to HMS Victorious for some weeks and there should therefore be no long term impact on her programme.

Official Residences

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to dispose of official residential properties. [6182]

Mr. Touhig *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* There are currently 37 posts worldwide that attract Official Service Residences (OSRs) status as a result of hosting and entertainment duties. Although the number of posts attracting this status is kept under constant review, there are currently no plans to change the present number of posts attracting OSR status.

Two of the properties currently occupied by OSR status post holders have been identified for eventual disposal. The two post holders concerned would be transferred, if necessary, into alternative accommodation befitting the entitlement of the occupant and OSR status.

RAF (Staff Levels)

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the staff levels against targets are for RAF *(a)* aircrew, *(b)* weapons systems operators, *(c)* ground crew, *(d)* technicians and intelligence staff. [7890]

Mr. Ingram: As at 1 May 2005 the following staff levels (trained strength) against targets (requirement) were reported.

	Trained strength	*Requirement*	*Surplus/ deficit*
Junior officer aircrew	1,435	1,555	-120
Junior officer weapons system operators	630	660	-30
Junior officer ground crew	70	60	+10
Squadron leader flying branch	705	720	-15
Technicians and intelligence	1,635	1,735	-100

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

RAF Menwith Hill

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* US Army, *(b)* US Navy, *(c)* US Marines, *(d)* US Airforce, *(e)* US civilians and *(f)* US contractors are working at RAF Menwith Hill. [7813]

Mr. Ingram: As of 1 June 2005 there were: 202 US Army personnel, 103 US Navy personnel, 34 US marines, 178 US Air Force personnel, 269 US Department of Defense civilians and 536 US contractors working at RAF Menwith Hill.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* GCHQ, *(b)* Ministry of Defence Police Agency, *(c)* Ministry of Defence Guarding Service, *(d)* Royal Air Force and *(e)* other UK personnel are working at RAF Menwith Hill. [7814]

Mr. Ingram: As of 1 June 2005 there were 125 Ministry of Defence Police Agency personnel, 33 Ministry of Defence Guarding Service personnel, one Royal Air Force Officer and 231 other UK personnel working at RAF Menwith Hill. I am withholding the number of GCHQ personnel working at RAF Menwith Hill in accordance with Government policy of not commenting on intelligence matters.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the planned expansion of facilities at RAF Menwith Hill. [7815]

Mr. Ingram: A master plan covering the long-term development of RAF Menwith Hill is in the process of being produced by a joint UK/US team at RAF Menwith Hill. In order to maintain the operational effectiveness of the station it will be necessary to improve some of the ageing infrastructure on the site. This may lead to the demolition of some older buildings and their replacement by expanded modern facilities that, wherever possible, will be more in keeping with the rural landscape. There are no plans to alter the station's current role and mission.

Royal Hospital Haslar

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* capital costs at the Royal Hospital Haslar in 2003–04; and what the estimate is for each year to 2008. [7562]

Mr. Touhig: The expenditure details requested in respect of the Royal Hospital Haslar are as follows:

£ million

	Maintenance	*Capital*
2003–04	2.1	0.3
2004–05[1]	2.1	2.0
2005–06[1]	2.2	0.2
2006–07[1]	2.2	0.2
2007–08[1]	0	0

[1] Estimated

The 2004–05 expenditure figures are shown as estimated because they are still subject to final audit by the National Audit Office. The estimate of nil expenditure for 2007–08 is due to the Ministry of Defence's planned withdrawal from management of the Royal Hospital Haslar site by 31 March 2007.

Work-related Stress

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7859]

Mr. Touhig: Ministry of Defence records on sickness absence for civilian employees do not distinguish between work related and non-work related stress. There are no centrally collated data recorded on work-related stress for Service personnel. The information requested on the number of cases, the numbers of days lost, and the cost of those working days due to work-related stress is not therefore available.

The compensation paid to MOD employees (service and civilian), for work- related stress, in each of the last three financial years was:

	£000
2002–03	10,568
2003–04	61,594
2004–05	226,730

The MOD has over the last three years operated a stress policy laid down in Joint Service Publication 375. This publication can be found on the internet, at http://www.mod.uk/dsef/ohs/jsp375.htm. This policy is supplemented by procedures that were designed to assist with stress reduction when identified in an individual, these procedures are:

Confidential advice from a member of the Occupational Welfare Service.

Time off for medical appointments and treatment.

Reasonable adjustments to hours of work and the nature on individual's duties

Early involvement and support from our Occupational Health experts.

Gradual rehabilitation including reduced hours and duties.

A comprehensive suite of work/life policies.

The MOD does not hold centrally records on the cost of take-up of the stress related procedures.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

A/AS Level Exams

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department has taken to reduce the assessment burden at A and AS level. [8474]

Jacqui Smith: As our white paper on the 14–19 reform states; we plan to move from 6 to 4-units of assessment for A level. This will reduce the assessment burden at advanced level by as much as a third and substantially reduce the cost on schools and colleges. This is purely about reducing assessment; there will be no reduction in A level content or standard.

We have also asked QCA to consider the burden of coursework in individual subjects and the cumulative effect across A level when they accredit new specifications.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what data on antisocial behaviour is collected by her Department relating to *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* colleges of further and higher education. [8359]

Jacqui Smith: The Department does not collect data from schools and colleges on antisocial behaviour. We do, however, collect data on exclusions from primary and secondary schools, although the numbers of exclusions do not necessarily reflect the levels of antisocial behaviour in schools. The last set of data on exclusions was published on 23 June and a copy of this publication is in the Library.

Ofsted report that in 2003/04 behaviour was satisfactory or better in 90 per cent. of secondary schools and 99 per cent. of primary schools.

The Department does not collect any data about antisocial behaviour from colleges of further and higher education.

Building Schools for the Future

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of the capital costs of building new *(a)* schools that offer A-levels under the Building Schools for the Future programme and *(b)* colleges that predominantly serve 16 to 19-year-olds was financed by her Department in the last year for which figures are available. [2599]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the funding contributions to be made by local authorities to schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme is not held by the department. Local authorities are free to make their own investment decisions in accordance with their asset management plans. Total capital funding of around £2.2 billion per year to 2007–08 has been committed as part of Building Schools for the Future and this will benefit 47 schools that offer A-levels in the first wave (2005–06) of the programme. This information is not yet available for waves 2 and 3.

The Learning and Skills Council administers funding for Further Education capital projects and contributes grant aid towards the costs. Assessments of the appropriate level of contribution are made against affordability criteria. Levels of grant support vary from around 10–50 per cent. of the total project costs, with an average of 35 per cent.

Burnley College

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if her Department will provide funding to relocate Burnley College. [2596]

Jacqui Smith: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) determines the appropriate level of funding for capital projects in further education colleges from the funds allocated to it by the Department for capital investment in the post-16 learning and skills sector, including relocation.

This is an operational matter for the LSC. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend on this matter. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom to Kitty Ussher, dated 22 June 2005:

I am writing to you following Jacqui Smith's reply of 30 June to your question regarding funding to support the relocation of Burnley College. As the Minister said this is an operational matter for the LSC.

The LSC has been in discussion with Burnley College regarding its accommodation strategy for some time and the LSC has supported two feasibility studies into the relocation of the college to the amount of £66,000. Regular discussions are taking place involving the college and its property consultants, LSC Lancashire and the regional capital adviser to support the development of a formal proposal.

As I am sure you will appreciate, the LSC has finite capital resources and demand for support is extremely high. To manage this the LSC has developed a set of criteria including consideration of space utilisation, value for money and affordability. This is essential if the LSC is to ensure that limited resources are used in the most cost effective manner. It is only possible to consider these criteria against detailed proposals. Such proposals have not, as yet been submitted by the college but LSC Lancashire has acknowledged the urgent need for a new building on a new site in Burnley as a priority. Once formal proposals have been received full consideration will be given to them against the above criteria.

Child Review 2004

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what progress there has been on the commitment in the Child Review 2004 to review the way in which education formulae operate in relation to schools in deprived areas; [6780]

(2) what the spending per pupil was in *(a)* the 10 per cent. least deprived authorities and *(b)* the 10 per cent. most deprived authorities in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002–03, (iii) 2003–04 and (iv) 2004–05' [6781]

(3) what the percentage difference in spending per pupil between the 10 per cent. most deprived authorities and the 10 per cent. least deprived authorities was in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002–03, *(c)* 2003–04 and *(d)* 2004–05. [6782]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 June 2005]:* The Government target additional resource to authorities where there are higher numbers of pupils living in deprived circumstances because these pupils are more likely to have additional educational needs, and they will require higher levels of funding if they are to have equality of opportunity. At national level, the formula for distributing funding for schools to local authorities comprises a basic entitlement for each pupil of the same age, which is the same across the country, plus top-ups reflecting the relative needs of each area, including a top-up for each pupil with additional educational needs. (The other top-ups are for higher area costs in some areas and sparsity in others). In addition, some specific grants such as Excellence in Cities have been directed towards deprived areas.

The funding that individual schools receive in their budget shares is a matter for local authorities through their local funding formulae. Each authority's local formula should direct resources according to the relative needs of the schools in the area and their pupils. Work on the joint HM Treasury/Department for Education and Skills review of the ways in which local education authorities fund schools for the effects of social deprivation started in the autumn of 2004. The collection of evidence from stakeholders and drafting of the report is largely complete and the review will be published when conclusions have been finalised. As stated in the Child Poverty Review document published in July 2004, those conclusions will need to recognise the priority of maintaining stability and predictability in school funding, while ensuring that funds are accurately targeted according to need.

The table sets out the spending figures for the least and most deprived authorities for 1997–98, 1998–99, 2002–03 and 2003–04. Figures for 2004–05 are not yet available. The figures reflect the Government's commitment to fund adequately pupils living in deprived circumstances.

The figures given include those for 1998–99 because those figures are more comparable with later years. That is because spending in 1997–98 reflected the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme: these were returned to local government from 1998–99. Also, because of local government reorganisation some authorities included in the calculations have only existed in their current form since 1998–99.

Combined LEA and school based expenditure[1] per pupil[2]
Cash terms figures as reported by LEAs as at 22 June 2005

	In the top 10 per cent. least deprived local authorities[3] (£) (a)	*In the top 10 per cent. most deprived local authorities[3] (£) (b)*	*Percentage difference[4] (c)*
1997–98[5]	2,670	3,390	27.3
1998–99	2,760	3,580	29.5
2002–03	3,270	4,230	29.2
2003–04	3,680	4,850	32.0
2004–05[6]	—	—	—

[1] The combined LEA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LEA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LEA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LEA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). Figures for 1997–98 and 1998–99 are drawn from the Revenue Outturn (RO1) spending returns which local authorities submitted to the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. Figures for 2002–03 onwards are drawn from the Section 52 Outturn Statement (Table A) submitted to the DfES.

[2] Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under-fives funded by the LEA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LEA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DfES Annual Schools Census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under-five pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only available since 1999–2000. Other LEA maintained pupils includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from the Form 8b submitted to the DfES. Also included as other LEA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained mainstream school drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[3] The AEN Index used in the allocation of Education Formula Spending Shares to LEAs in 2004–05 is used to identify the top and bottom 10 per cent. most deprived local authorities in 2003 and these LEAs have been compared over the years listed in the above table. The Index is calculated using the percentage of children in families in receipt of income support, job seekers allowance and working families tax credit, the percentage of primary pupils with mother tongue other than English and of secondary pupils from low achieving ethnic groups. However, due to local government reorganisation on 1 April 1998, five LEAs included in the 10 per cent. least deprived LEAs and did not exist in 1997–98 and have therefore been excluded for this year.

[4] The percentage difference is defined as the difference between spending per pupil in the 10 per cent. most deprived LEAs and 10 per cent. least deprived LEAs as a percentage of spending per pupil in the 10 per cent. least deprived LEAs (i.e. (column *(b)*—column *(a)*)/(column *(a)*).

[5] Spending in 1997–98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998–99.

[6] Expenditure data for 2004–05 are not due to be collected by the Department until October 2005.

Note:
Unit cost figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

City Academies

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answers of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 331W and 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 191W, on city academies, how

many lessons in city academies have been inspected by Ofsted in each year since the first city academy was opened. [7940]

Jacqui Smith: The number of lessons in academies inspected by HMI since the first academy was opened is 386. This includes two formal Section 10 inspections of lessons at Greig city academy (December 2004) and Unity city academy (March 2005), as well as a number of monitoring visits. 203 lessons were inspected during 2004 and 183 lessons have been inspected, so far, for 2005.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans her Department has to open new academies in Coventry south. [7978]

Jacqui Smith: My officials are currently in discussion about potential academy proposals in the north east and in the centre of Coventry. There are no academy proposals in the south of the authority at this time.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans she has to evaluate the admissions policies of academies; [7980]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure transparency and accountability in the admissions processes of academies. [7982]

Jacqui Smith: Academy admission policies are agreed with the Secretary of State, in consultation with the local education authority, at an early stage during the establishment of an academy. Should an academy wish to change its admissions policy, it is required—through its funding agreement—to seek the Secretary of State's consent to any changes, after first having sought comments on the changes from the local education authority, local schools and any other relevant admissions authority.

Academies are also required to follow the School Admissions Code of Practice, admit pupils in accordance to the local education authority's co-ordinated admissions arrangements and take part in, and have regard to the advice of, the local education authority's Admissions Forum.

Given all of these requirements, we consider that the current processes already ensures full accountability and transparency and do not see a need to add any further requirements or undertake any separate evaluate the admissions policies of academies.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on academies' obligations concerning applications from students with special educational needs. [7981]

Jacqui Smith: Academies are fully inclusive schools and admit pupils with special educational needs (SEN) on an equal basis with other schools in the area and this is reflected in their admissions policies. Although academies are independent schools, they have regard to the SEN Code of Practice (2001) and statutory guidance on inclusion. This obligation forms part of the funding agreement between each academy and the Secretary of State.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on teachers' representation on governing boards of academies. [7983]

Jacqui Smith: Academies are independent schools and the composition of their governing bodies, therefore, are principally a matter for the governing bodies themselves. Governance is one of the areas in which we wish academies to innovate; the Department, therefore, prescribes the makeup of academy governing bodies as little as possible.

That said, we are keen, where appropriate, for there to be a wide and varied representation on all governing bodies, including representation from both teaching and non-teaching staff. The majority of academies, therefore, do have within their memorandum and articles of governance provision for the election or co-option of staff governors. The principals of academies also sit on the governing body.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps she has taken to protect teachers' rights in academies; and what further steps are planned. [7984]

Jacqui Smith: Teachers who transfer to academies from predecessor schools have their existing pay and conditions of service protected under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (TUPE). Academies are also required to ensure that all teachers they employ have access to the Teachers Pension Scheme and to comply with the statutory provisions underlying the scheme.

We also protect the professional standing of teachers in academies, by requiring that teachers employed at academies are qualified teachers within the meaning of the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003 and that they meet the health standards set out in the Education (Health Standards)(England) Regulations 2003.

Education Funding (Birth Rates)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the effect of falling birth rates on the funding that is required for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [8249]

Jacqui Smith: The Department takes account of projected pupil numbers in assessing future spending pressures on schools. The majority of costs in schools are closely related to the number of pupils, but some costs relate more to the existence and functioning of the school. Pupil numbers in primary schools have been falling for some years and in secondary schools will be falling from now on.

Education Services (Worcestershire)

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2005 to the hon. Member for Stroud to Question ref 6816, what assessment she has made of the financial impact on Worcestershire local education authority of 443 pupils from the county receiving their schooling in Gloucestershire. [9071]

Jacqui Smith: The school funding formula distributes resources to authorities on the basis of where pupils are counted on the school roll. The 443 Worcestershire pupils who are attending Gloucestershire schools will therefore attract funding, on a per pupil basis, into Gloucestershire LEA's schools formula spending share (SFSS). Nevertheless, Worcestershire retains some residual responsibility for pupils who reside in their area—e.g in relation to SEN statementing—and therefore Worcestershire's LEA formula spending share (LEAFSS) includes an element of funding which is based on pupils' residence.

Grandparents

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment she has made of the proportion of child care provided by grandparents. [7934]

Beverley Hughes: The Department collects information on the uptake, use of and demand for child care, including that provided by grandparents, via a series of surveys of parents and evaluation of initiatives such as Sure Start local programmes and neighbourhood nurseries.

These studies have shown that grandparents are a significant provider of informal child care (that provided by friends and relatives) and are often the 'glue' that holds different child care arrangements together.

The 2003 Families and Children Survey found that for children in couple families where the mother worked, the most common child care arrangement—after partner/ex-partner—was grandparents (26 per cent.). For children in lone parent families in which the mother worked, grandparents were the most common child care arrangement used (27 per cent.). The survey also found that child care provided by grandparents declined from 36 per cent. for 0 to 2-year-old children to 24 per cent. for 11 to 13-year-olds.

The Government recognise the major contribution that grandparents and other relatives play in child care. In order to support informal carers such as grandparents, Sure Start children's centres will provide support and drop-in facilities.

International GCSE

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons maintained secondary schools are not permitted to enter pupils for the international mathematics GCSE examination. [7999]

Jacqui Smith: For qualifications to be taught in the maintained sector they must be accredited by the QCA and approved for use under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000. The international GCSEs were designed primarily as qualifications for overseas candidates, and have not been put forward for accreditation. IGCSE in Mathematics therefore is not approved for use by pupils in maintained schools and is unlikely to be, since it is not currently aligned to the national curriculum programmes of study.

Leadership Group on Behaviour and Discipline

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 357W, on the leadership group on behaviour and discipline, what the costs were of the group's meeting in each year since it was established; and how often the group met. [8492]

Jacqui Smith: The leadership group has met once, on 21 June 2005. The accommodation cost of that meeting was some £1,260. Group members are also entitled to the costs of travel and of supply cover. The total claimed thus far under that heading is some £340.

New Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 360W, on new school provision, what criteria her Department will use to distribute the additional money to which she refers; [8485]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 360W, on new school provision, from which organisations her Department has received representations. [8486]

Jacqui Smith: We have received bids from the majority of maintained boarding schools for the £5 million available through targeted capital funding for boarding provision. Schools were invited to bid for funding towards:

Significant building projects to increase boarding provision;

Significant building projects to make essential improvements in boarding accommodation to meet, for example, health and safety or commission for social care inspection or other statutory requirements;

Significant remedial or enhancement work to boarding buildings; and the provision of equipment vital to the operation of the school.

No decision has yet been reached on the allocation of the funding.

In relation to new provision of small schools, we have received representations from the human scale education movement. As I made clear in my previous reply, decisions about the establishment of new schools are taken locally.

Out-of-hours Learning

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1012W, on out-of-hours learning, who monitors the extent to which the guidance on homework for school pupils set out in her Department's publication, Homework: Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools is being followed by schools. [7941]

Jacqui Smith: The homework guidance does not have statutory force; therefore it is for schools to make their own decisions in this area. Ofsted inspectors evaluate the extent to which homework is effectively used to reinforce and extend what is learned in school, and reflect their findings in their report on the school. Ofsted

inspections in 2003/04 found that the use of homework was satisfactory or better in 91 per cent. of secondary schools and 97 per cent. of primary schools.

Prison Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* 2003–04 budget and *(b)* 2003–04 expenditure was for prison education; and if she will make a statement. [8234]

Phil Hope: Funding for prison education and training in 2003–04 was £97.2 million. Expenditure was £96.3 million.

Pupil Behaviour Programmes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what arrangements her Department has made to give professional training on issues facing gay and lesbian pupils to those delivering the programme for improving pupil behaviour. [8247]

Jacqui Smith: We are committed to countering all forms of discrimination in schools, including homophobia. To achieve that:

The anti-bullying charter for action specifically mentions homophobic bullying;

The comprehensive guidance we have given schools on countering bullying includes advice on dealing with homophobic bullying;

The training materials available to staff in schools through our national secondary strategy also cover homophobic bullying;

Secondary strategy behaviour and attendance consultants, of which there is at least one in every local education authority, and primary national strategy leads, have been closely involved in our national "Make The Difference" anti-bullying conferences. These conferences included a close focus on countering homophobic bullying.

Pupil Exclusions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupil exclusions there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough in each of the last five years. [8300]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of pupils absent for at least one half day due to unauthorised absence, 2000 to 2004—maintained schools in England (excluding special schools and CTCs)

	Primary					
	2000		2001		2002	
LEA	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
London, City of	75	42.4	60	32.8	24	13.5
Camden	2,633	28.3	3,503	37.5	3,596	38.5
Greenwich	6,141	35.6	6,205	35.5	6,050	34.9
Hackney	5,187	34.7	5,422	36.7	5,121	34.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,588	31.0	1,867	24.1	2,057	25.6
Islington	4,206	32.4	4,265	32.2	4,443	33.9
Kensington and Chelsea	1,721	34.9	1,592	27.6	1,663	29.2
Lambeth	5,424	36.6	5,647	35.2	4,489	28.7
Lewisham	7,199	39.7	8,376	42.3	7,440	38.5
Southwark	7,713	42.2	7,912	41.7	8,816	43.9
Tower Hamlets	8,581	49.7	8,779	49.9	8,265	48.0
Wandsworth	3,035	21.1	2,841	19.9	2,680	19.0
Westminster, City of	2,623	35.2	2,481	29.4	2,505	28.7
Barking and Dagenham	5,758	38.2	5,602	36.9	6,124	40.6
Barnet	3,826	17.9	4,070	18.4	4,393	20.0
Bexley	2,286	13.4	1,861	10.2	2,098	11.4
Brent	3,971	21.2	3,198	17.4	3,262	17.4
Bromley	3,090	14.0	2,941	13.1	2,943	13.4
Croydon	4,156	16.2	4,829	18.1	4,704	17.8
Ealing	3,722	17.3	3,142	14.6	2,378	11.1
Enfield	6,444	29.5	6,559	28.8	7,149	30.6
Haringey	6,016	38.7	6,723	39.1	7,210	40.3
Harrow	3,145	17.8	2,782	16.1	2,274	13.5
Havering	1,414	7.9	1,573	8.7	1,727	9.8
Hillingdon	5,292	25.8	5,330	27.8	4,875	24.4
Hounslow	4,213	26.5	4,921	31.9	4,920	31.4
Kingston upon Thames	1,158	12.7	907	9.4	933	9.7
Merton	2,543	20.8	1,875	15.8	1,677	14.1
Newham	12,319	51.0	12,254	48.0	11,584	44.6
Redbridge	4,962	27.4	6,214	31.3	5,402	26.8
Richmond upon Thames	778	7.5	796	7.7	896	8.7
Sutton	1,636	12.7	1,839	14.6	1,794	14.1
Waltham Forest	4,192	23.0	4,286	22.9	3,289	18.1

Primary

LEA	2003 Number absent	2003 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	2004 Number absent	2004 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	0.0	25	14.2
Camden	2,874	30.8	2,691	28.6
Greenwich	6,674	38.1	6,254	35.9
Hackney	4,943	33.5	5,023	33.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,510	19.7	1,752	22.6
Islington	4,716	36.5	3,864	30.5
Kensington and Chelsea	1,505	26.4	1,108	19.1
Lambeth	5,348	31.7	4,996	29.9
Lewisham	6,753	34.6	7,151	36.6
Southwark	9,472	46.2	8,753	41.5
Tower Hamlets	8,173	46.8	8,364	47.5
Wandsworth	2,831	19.6	2,794	20.1
Westminster, City of	2,346	26.3	1,889	21.4
Barking and Dagenham	6,265	41.2	5,568	36.6
Barnet	4,318	19.4	5,328	24.1
Bexley	1,967	11.0	2,016	11.3
Brent	3,036	16.2	3,246	17.2
Bromley	3,180	14.5	4,405	20.6
Croydon	5,456	21.2	5,727	22.1
Ealing	2,166	10.1	2,490	11.8
Enfield	7,446	32.0	6,514	27.7
Haringey	7,351	40.2	6,455	35.4
Harrow	1,675	9.7	1,514	8.7
Havering	1,745	10.0	1,732	10.0
Hillingdon	4,370	22.1	4,207	21.7
Hounslow	5,539	35.7	5,373	34.9
Kingston upon Thames	834	8.7	950	10.0
Merton	1,640	14.9	1,355	12.1
Newham	9,962	38.3	7,389	28.7
Redbridge	5,377	26.7	5,745	29.1
Richmond upon Thames	1,150	10.9	1,576	14.5
Sutton	1,594	12.7	1,609	13.0
Waltham Forest	3,500	19.6	3,759	21.3

Secondary

LEA	2000 Number absent	2000 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	2001 Number absent	2001 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	2002 Number absent	2002 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	—	0	—	0	—
Camden	1,774	20.5	2,093	24.2	1,985	22.8
Greenwich	2,818	22.3	3,345	26.0	3,715	28.6
Hackney	1,945	28.2	2,595	33.5	2,876	35.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,268	24.5	1,302	21.0	1,375	22.1
Islington	2,371	33.5	2,739	36.1	2,360	29.9
Kensington and Chelsea	1,080	34.6	1,077	34.4	925	30.0
Lambeth	1,418	19.9	1,674	23.4	1,746	24.3
Lewisham	4,224	38.8	4,595	40.8	4,474	43.4
Southwark	2,581	25.5	2,566	24.4	3,311	30.8
Tower Hamlets	5,567	42.2	5,592	41.5	5,831	42.9
Wandsworth	1,910	21.3	2,155	24.1	2,218	24.9
Westminster, City of	3,066	43.5	1,799	25.2	2,331	32.6
Barking and Dagenham	2,804	28.7	3,181	31.7	3,614	34.5
Barnet	2,601	15.2	3,148	17.6	3,939	22.1
Bexley	2,546	17.0	3,224	20.6	3,361	21.0
Brent	1,875	15.4	1,930	15.6	1,874	15.0
Bromley	2,030	11.8	3,519	19.9	3,188	17.6
Croydon	2,323	14.7	2,314	13.5	2,688	15.2
Ealing	2,062	15.4	2,804	20.7	2,545	18.5
Enfield	5,509	31.5	6,238	35.2	5,864	32.9
Haringey	2,697	26.3	2,786	30.0	4,150	37.5
Harrow	862	9.7	1,111	12.2	1,097	11.9
Havering	1,753	11.9	2,112	14.0	2,101	13.7
Hillingdon	3,434	24.8	3,125	22.1	3,541	23.8

	Secondary					
	2000		2001		2002	
LEA	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
Hounslow	1,866	13.6	1,681	12.1	2,494	18.2
Kingston upon Thames	1,280	17.9	997	13.6	1,143	15.3
Merton	2,168	28.5	2,156	28.9	2,106	29.2
Newham	7,622	43.7	7,831	44.5	7,363	41.5
Redbridge	1,654	10.8	2,072	13.7	2,800	18.2
Richmond upon Thames	1,478	19.2	2,332	30.1	2,700	35.7
Sutton	1,026	8.8	1,512	12.4	2,106	17.0
Waltham Forest	3,476	27.5	3,715	28.9	3,749	28.5

	Secondary			
	2003		2004	
LEA	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	—	0	—
Camden	1,755	23.2	1,628	21.6
Greenwich	4,426	33.5	4,913	36.9
Hackney	2,112	26.2	2,727	37.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,492	23.7	1,580	25.6
Islington	2,811	35.2	2,876	36.1
Kensington and Chelsea	890	28.8	568	18.3
Lambeth	1,685	23.2	870	11.5
Lewisham	4,137	36.6	5,340	47.2
Southwark	3,897	35.6	2,831	25.2
Tower Hamlets	6,501	48.2	6,186	45.6
Wandsworth	2,322	25.7	1,705	21.6
Westminster, City of	2,992	41.4	3,302	44.7
Barking and Dagenham	3,851	35.4	4,019	35.5
Barnet	3,324	18.5	4,090	23.4
Bexley	2,944	18.8	3,556	21.1
Brent	2,705	19.8	2,240	16.1
Bromley	4,302	23.8	3,428	18.7
Croydon	4,733	26.2	3,931	21.9
Ealing	2,279	16.3	2,990	21.3
Enfield	6,443	35.2	8,062	42.7
Haringey	4,666	41.7	4,325	38.2
Harrow	1,125	12.1	1,100	11.8
Havering	1,993	12.8	2,237	14.2
Hillingdon	4,729	31.4	4,992	31.9
Hounslow	2,317	16.5	3,074	22.0
Kingston upon Thames	845	11.1	724	10.8
Merton	2,295	27.8	2,073	25.2
Newham	6,969	38.3	6,367	35.0
Redbridge	2,630	16.6	4,203	26.3
Richmond upon Thames	2,419	31.8	2,737	35.9
Sutton	1,938	15.1	2,518	19.2
Waltham Forest	3,316	24.9	5,012	36.6

'—' = not applicable

School Bullying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools did not have a school bullying policy in place in 2004–05. [8469]

Jacqui Smith: All schools are required, under section 61 of the School Standards Framework Act 1998, to have an anti-bullying policy in place.

We are not aware of any schools which do not comply with this requirement.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 471W, on bullying, if she will list the items of research to which she refers. [8479]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is as follows.

Impact of bullying on truancy

Dalziel and Henthorne (2005) "Parents' Carers' Attitudes Towards School Attendance" DfES Research Report RR618

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR618.pdf

Malcolm, Wilson, Davidson and Kirk (2003) "Absence from School: A Study of its Causes and Effects in Seven LEAs" DfES Research Report RR 424

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR424.pdf

Impact of bullying on exclusions

DfES (2005) "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England, 2003/04" National Statistics First Release SFR 23/2005 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000582/SFR23-2005.pdf

MORI (2004) "MORI Youth Survey 2004" Youth Justice Board for England and Wales http://www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk/Publications/Scripts/fileDownload.asp?file=YouthSurvey2004.pdf

Armstrong et al (2005) "Children, risk and crime: the On Track Youth Lifestyles Surveys" Home Office Research Study 278

http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/homeoffice/s?rds.hors278pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=%5Bhttp://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors278.pdf%5D

Impact of bullying on participation in further and higher education

Kidscape (1999) "Kidscape Survey: Long-term Effects of Bullying"

http://www.kidscape.org.uk/assets/downloads/kslongtermeffects.pdf

Impact of bullying on the incidence of self-harm and suicide

Kidscape (1999) "Kidscape Survey: Long-term Effects of Bullying"

http://www.kidscape.org.uk/assets/downloads/kslongtermeffects.pdf

Rivers, (2004) "Recollections of Bullying at School and their Long-Term Implications for Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals" Crisis Vol. 25 (4)

Tackling bullying

Warwick, Chase and Aggleton with Sanders (2004) "Homophobia, Sexual Orientation and Schools: A Review and Implications for Action" DfES Research Report RR594

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR594.pdf

Smith and Sumara (2003) "Evaluation of the DfES Anti-Bullying Pack" DfES Research Brief RBX06-03

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RBX06-03.pdf

Oliver and Candappa (2003) "Tackling Bullying: Listening to the Views of Children and Young People" DfES Research Report RR400

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR400.pdf

School Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on maintenance and improvement of *(a)* primary and junior schools and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) West Sussex, (ii) Kent, (iii) Durham, (iv) East Riding of Yorkshire and (v) each English county in each of the last eight years. [7967]

Jacqui Smith: Expenditure on maintenance and improvement of *(a)* primary and junior schools and *(b)* secondary schools is determined by local authorities and schools in accordance with their local asset management plans.

School capital allocations to local authorities and schools in (i) West Sussex, (ii) Kent, (iii) Durham, (iv) East Riding of Yorkshire and (v) each English county in each of the last eight years are set out in the following table:

£000

LEA name	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*
Bedfordshire	6,261	7,230	16,740	38,402	18,638	18,359	20,621	16,250
Buckinghamshire	9,318	13,072	21,116	14,017	20,627	27,460	26,443	21,050
Cambridgeshire	11,955	12,294	23,939	22,241	27,974	38,682	33,212	24,598
Cheshire	9,784	15,337	27,912	34,224	24,973	34,224	30,488	26,288
Cornwall	10,910	11,621	81,513	19,029	28,239	99,602	33,273	20,003
Cumbria	7,750	10,412	19,703	16,447	23,174	21,193	23,723	19,005
Derbyshire	12,965	13,855	27,405	50,596	37,530	74,516	41,778	32,577
Devon	13,202	16,841	27,336	26,658	46,619	122,740	56,137	24,973
Dorset	8,405	7,256	13,247	11,596	21,935	22,855	16,276	18,929
Durham	11,525	12,308	19,777	17,459	27,059	33,035	25,282	25,815
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,218	36,964	16,235	11,208	16,181	20,432	21,642	16,997
East Sussex	15,093	30,258	18,149	16,146	23,932	24,402	23,721	17,703
Essex	15,510	21,928	57,317	41,770	84,492	63,462	63,202	55,618
Gloucestershire	7,019	12,942	26,870	24,170	27,563	28,486	36,782	30,157
Hampshire	22,054	19,190	43,116	38,118	54,428	70,786	62,874	50,882
Hertfordshire	14,850	15,183	36,733	26,531	47,413	43,353	60,759	63,764
Kent	23,174	21,598	63,044	48,222	73,151	92,848	181,101	90,461
Lancashire	19,457	36,807	42,300	36,021	55,453	62,607	44,234	38,054
Leicestershire	6,503	9,232	20,957	15,831	25,401	27,582	33,834	22,867
Lincolnshire	6,310	9,702	26,968	39,013	26,928	28,157	33,779	29,340
Norfolk	10,815	12,089	28,303	25,472	130,152	39,292	108,282	34,457
North Yorkshire	8,500	11,250	31,470	18,919	26,946	34,086	27,377	21,993
Northamptonshire	15,394	12,308	26,802	22,935	56,011	130,466	36,015	25,035
Northumberland	4,654	6,174	15,496	9,461	12,875	13,730	15,920	11,700
Nottinghamshire	10,105	16,391	45,404	29,005	33,779	157,700	31,112	26,170
Oxfordshire	11,779	13,814	24,973	26,822	33,687	33,394	36,896	36,243
Somerset	8,765	9,188	18,148	17,621	20,049	19,249	21,831	18,212
Staffordshire	28,435	18,549	34,145	27,479	32,905	35,529	41,071	29,194
Surrey	16,986	14,101	33,113	28,529	39,836	48,336	45,928	38,278
Warwickshire	6,414	7,339	17,511	14,143	23,787	34,454	25,499	19,169
West Sussex	10,922	9,990	21,593	19,101	86,759	30,799	34,381	36,014
Wiltshire	7,572	7,221	54,228	12,083	19,349	27,615	21,251	15,740
Worcestershire	9,658	12,554	26,799	17,884	26,086	24,264	88,860	19,602

Revenue expenditure figures on the maintenance and improvement of schools are likely to vary from year to year depending on the unique circumstances of a particular LEA. For example, revenue expenditure will increase in years where there have been adverse weather conditions (e.g. repairing storm damage) and is also likely to vary with the number and age of the school buildings within the LEA. Revenue expenditure will also be affected by the amounts of capital allocated to each school.

The available information is contained within the following table:

Maintenance and improvement of school buildings and grounds since 1998[1,2,3,4]

£000

1998–99[1]

	Pre-primary and primary education	*Secondary education*
Bedfordshire	1,311	3,197
Buckinghamshire	3,843	3,305
Cambridgeshire	3,689	2,051
Cheshire	4,729	3,451
Cornwall	4,932	4,448
Cumbria	4,647	3,033
Derbyshire	4,999	3,745
Devon	4,711	2,708
Dorset	1,553	1,864
Durham	4,645	3,380
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,854	2,143
East Sussex	2,054	2,252
Essex	7,248	3,007
Gloucestershire	3,171	797
Hampshire	7,634	5,569
Hertfordshire	4,820	4,088
Kent	4,097	1,958
Lancashire	6,078	4,360
Leicestershire	3,486	4,157
Lincolnshire	2,151	1,318
Norfolk	4,085	4,135
North Yorkshire	3,071	3,787
Northamptonshire	3,356	2,095
Northumberland	2,188	2,516
Nottinghamshire	3,805	4,076
Oxfordshire	1,416	1,175
Shropshire	1,631	1,906
Somerset	896	1,598
Staffordshire	2,709	3,623
Surrey	2,916	1,845
Warwickshire	2,499	1,644
West Sussex	3,647	3,390
Wiltshire	1,815	804
Worcestershire	2,659	2,429

1999–2000

£000

	Pre-primary	*Primary education*	*Pre-primary and primary education*	*Secondary education*
Bedfordshire	13	0	13	0
Buckinghamshire	6	2,172	2,178	2,774
Cambridgeshire	22	2,608	2,630	2,054
Cheshire	21	4,495	4,516	4,486
Cornwall	8	2,756	2,764	2,410
Cumbria	65	1,802	1,867	2,181
Derbyshire	32	2,182	2,214	1,758
Devon	22	5,285	5,306	3,206
Dorset	1	949	949	1,759
Durham	215	2,519	2,733	2,355
East Riding of Yorkshire	108	1,459	1,566	1,673

1999–2000

£000

	Pre-primary	*Primary education*	*Pre-primary and primary education*	*Secondary education*
East Sussex	0	2,327	2,327	1,915
Essex	16	5,405	5,421	5,668
Gloucestershire	9	5,182	5,191	5,273
Hampshire	11	6,091	6,102	5,901
Hertfordshire	94	5,673	5,768	5,248
Kent	3	5,903	5,907	7,209
Lancashire	237	8,317	8,554	6,396
Leicestershire	0	2,713	2,713	4,342
Lincolnshire	40	2,773	2,813	2,199
Norfolk	15	3,621	3,636	3,704
North Yorkshire	19	3,389	3,408	4,067
Northamptonshire	34	3,865	3,898	3,388
Northumberland	2	2,349	2,350	2,699
Nottinghamshire	43	5,166	5,210	7,042
Oxfordshire	56	941	997	468
Shropshire	0	1,005	1,006	842
Somerset	3	623	626	1,269
Staffordshire	8	2,686	2,694	3,321
Surrey	35	3,589	3,625	2,896
Warwickshire	204	3,181	3,386	3,437
West Sussex	15	1,576	1,591	1,748
Wiltshire	0	1,802	1,802	1,687
Worcestershire	15	1,575	1,590	2,142

2000–01

£000

	Pre-primary	*Primary education*	*Pre-primary and primary education*	*Secondary education*
Bedfordshire	0	309	309	598
Buckinghamshire	13	2,895	2,908	2,802
Cambridgeshire	106	3,260	3,366	2,631
Cheshire	6	4,426	4,431	3,359
Cornwall	9	1,038	1,047	1,060
Cumbria	68	3,638	3,706	3,899
Derbyshire	39	3,045	3,084	2,877
Devon	26	5,219	5,245	3,202
Dorset	1	1,498	1,499	2,192
Durham	259	3,033	3,292	2,268
East Riding of Yorkshire	51	2,088	2,139	2,269
East Sussex	0	2,173	2,173	2,452
Essex	9	8,256	8,265	8,692
Gloucestershire	15	3,794	3,809	5,287
Hampshire	26	6,024	6,050	6,221
Hertfordshire	107	5,586	5,693	5,405
Kent	32	4,924	4,956	11,351
Lancashire	178	9,122	9,300	6,347
Leicestershire	2	3,276	3,278	4,822
Lincolnshire	25	2,783	2,808	2,452
Norfolk	23	3,713	3,736	4,810
North Yorkshire	74	3,006	3,081	3,740
Northamptonshire	13	5,635	5,648	5,804
Northumberland	11	2,596	2,607	2,986
Nottinghamshire	34	3,857	3,891	4,720
Oxfordshire	41	263	304	90
Shropshire	0	980	980	863
Somerset	3	1,181	1,183	2,092
Staffordshire	10	3,003	3,013	3,341
Surrey	63	5,270	5,333	3,281
Warwickshire	242	2,491	2,734	2,484
West Sussex	33	3,539	3,572	1,806
Wiltshire	0	1,515	1,515	1,516
Worcestershire	4	123	127	143

2001-02

£000

	Pre-primary	*Primary education*	*Pre-primary and primary education*	*Secondary education*
Bedfordshire	8	2,986	2,995	2,973
Buckinghamshire	12	2,767	2,779	3,045
Cambridgeshire	41	2,863	2,904	2,461
Cheshire	13	4,593	4,606	3,595
Cornwall	796	2,555	3,351	2,652
Cumbria	46	4,840	4,886	6,889
Derbyshire	56	2,802	2,858	2,571
Devon	16	6,088	6,104	4,181
Dorset	1	1,676	1,677	2,421
Durham	226	3,217	3,443	2,534
East Riding of Yorkshire	24	2,894	2,918	3,730
East Sussex	3	2,539	2,541	3,101
Essex	44	9,795	9,839	11,128
Gloucestershire	138	3,297	3,435	5,342
Hampshire	12	4,267	4,279	4,257
Hertfordshire	83	7,536	7,619	6,162
Kent	27	7,110	7,137	9,377
Lancashire	217	10,540	10,757	7,721
Leicestershire	10	3,387	3,396	5,794
Lincolnshire	5	1,585	1,591	2,077
Norfolk	11	4,839	4,850	4,119
North Yorkshire	79	3,024	3,103	3,243
Northamptonshire	11	4,275	4,286	3,700
Northumberland	1	2,561	2,562	2,854
Nottinghamshire	16	3,815	3,831	4,886
Oxfordshire	84	487	571	1,642
Shropshire	9	1,004	1,013	945
Somerset	3	2,252	2,255	2,002
Staffordshire	54	3,681	3,735	3,598
Surrey	10	4,767	4,777	4,697
Warwickshire	74	3,042	3,116	3,693
West Sussex	41	3,325	3,365	1,578
Wiltshire	0	980	980	716
Worcestershire	6	2,350	2,356	3,499

£000

	2002-03[1]		*2003-04*[1]	
	Primary schools	*Secondary schools*	*Primary schools*	*Secondary schools*
Bedfordshire	1,526	2,607	1,473	2,272
Buckinghamshire	2,569	3,167	3,106	4,350
Cambridgeshire	2,539	1,884	2,731	2,552
Cheshire	3,621	3,201	3,446	3,783
Cornwall	2,987	3,539	2,973	3,627
Cumbria	4,147	3,272	2,173	2,946
Derbyshire	3,070	2,310	2,989	2,497
Devon	3,426	2,874	3,415	2,550
Dorset	1,594	1,972	1,589	2,251
Durham	2,578	2,089	2,149	2,948
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,440	1,291	1,191	1,045
East Sussex	1,721	1,865	1,453	1,879
Essex	8,475	8,474	8,560	8,121
Gloucestershire	2,284	2,755	2,510	2,667
Hampshire	7,405	6,545	7,757	6,943
Hertfordshire	5,026	5,427	4,308	5,241
Kent	5,949	8,228	5,639	7,754
Lancashire	11,262	7,079	12,261	7,576
Leicestershire	3,298	4,574	3,298	4,106
Lincolnshire	2,563	3,010	2,391	2,771
Norfolk	6,452	4,954	6,870	5,339
North Yorkshire	3,638	3,846	3,683	3,690
Northamptonshire	3,544	3,084	3,503	3,494
Northumberland	1,277	2,315	1,460	2,491
Nottinghamshire	3,452	4,273	3,551	4,130
Oxfordshire	3,418	3,960	3,291	4,204
Shropshire	964	872	986	858
Somerset	2,902	3,800	2,780	3,363
Staffordshire	2,572	3,050	2,311	3,073
Surrey	5,972	5,883	6,762	6,330
Warwickshire	2,746	2,560	2,947	2,585
West Sussex	3,884	3,889	4,183	4,311
Wiltshire	2,330	2,363	2,049	2,553
Worcestershire	2,241	3,674	2,037	3,106

[1] Denotes the change of source from LEAs education Revenue Outturn Statements submitted to ODPM to Section 52 Outturn Statements in 1999–00, and to the review of Section 52 categories in 2002–03 following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools.

[2] Figures for 1998–99 to 2001–02 cover the repair and maintenance of buildings, fixed plant and grounds which includes all expenditure on non-capital building works, including repairs and maintenance of buildings, and non-capital expenditure on fixed plant and grounds. Figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 are the combination of the revenue expenditure on building (including fixed plant) maintenance and improvement and grounds maintenance and improvement categories (CFR categories E12 + E13). Any capital expenditure on school buildings is not included in this table.

[3] Figures are provided for the six years to 2003–04, the latest year for which data are available. Data for 1997–98 and earlier are not available for comparable areas due to local government re-organisation. Figures for 2002–03 onwards will not be directly comparable with figures for earlier years as figures for 2002–03 and 2003–04 are not available and have therefore been excluded for these two years. Also, for some LEAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the schools sectors was reported within the LEA part of the Section 52 form in 2002–03 and 2003–04 and would therefore be excluded from the totals for

[4] Figures are rounded up to the nearest 1,000.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding is estimated as necessary for buildings maintenance in 2005–06 in *(a)* each school in Brent and *(b)* in each London borough. [8306]

Jacqui Smith: Decisions on how much funding is needed for buildings maintenance in each school in Brent and each London borough are not made centrally but by local authorities and schools in accordance with their local asset management plans.

School Meals

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when she expects the School Meal Review Panel to consider the nutritional standards that apply to school breakfasts. [8230]

Jacqui Smith: The Department for Education and Skills will publish draft school lunch standards for public consultation this September, and the final version will become mandatory from September 2006. Once the draft school lunch standards have been published the panel will consider how the standards could be extended to apply to other food and drink provided on school premises.

Schools (Unauthorised Absence)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in each London borough missed at least half a day due to unauthorised absence in *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools, *(c)* special schools and *(d)* pupil referral units, expressed as a percentage of pupils of compulsory school age in each of the last five years. [8059]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested on the number of pupils with unauthorised absence in London boroughs for secondary, primary and special schools is

shown in the following tables. Unauthorised absence includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy. The department does not currently collect absence data from pupil referral units, although we plan to do so in future, so this information cannot yet be provided.

Number of pupils absent for at least one half day due to unauthorised absence, 2000 to 2004—maintained schools in England (excluding CTCs)

Primary

	2000		*2001*		*2002*	
LEA	*Number absent*	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*	*Number absent*	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*	*Number absent*	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*
London, City of	75	42.4	60	32.8	24	13.5
Camden	2,633	28.3	3,503	37.5	3,596	38.5
Greenwich	6,141	35.6	6,205	35.5	6,050	34.9
Hackney	5,187	34.7	5,422	36.7	5,121	34.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,588	31.0	1,867	24.1	2,057	25.6
Islington	4,206	32.4	4,265	32.2	4,443	33.9
Kensington and Chelsea	1,721	34.9	1,592	27.6	1,663	29.2
Lambeth	5,424	36.6	5,647	35.2	4,489	28.7
Lewisham	7,199	39.7	8,376	42.3	7,440	38.5
Southwark	7,713	42.2	7,912	41.7	8,816	43.9
Tower Hamlets	8,581	49.7	8,779	49.9	8,265	48.0
Wandsworth	3,035	21.1	2,841	19.9	2,680	19.0
Westminster, City of	2,623	35.2	2,481	29.4	2,505	28.7
Barking and Dagenham	5,758	38.2	5,602	36.9	6,124	40.6
Barnet	3,826	17.9	4,070	18.4	4,393	20.0
Bexley	2,286	13.4	1,861	10.2	2,098	11.4
Brent	3,971	21.2	3,198	17.4	3,262	17.4
Bromley	3,090	14.0	2,941	13.1	2,943	13.4
Croydon	4,156	16.2	4,829	18.1	4,704	17.8
Ealing	3,722	17.3	3,142	14.6	2,378	11.1
Enfield	6,444	29.5	6,559	28.8	7,149	30.6
Haringey	6,016	38.7	6,723	39.1	7,210	40.3
Harrow	3,145	17.8	2,782	16.1	2,274	13.5
Havering	1,414	7.9	1,573	8.7	1,727	9.8
Hillingdon	5,292	25.8	5,330	27.8	4,875	24.4
Hounslow	4,213	26.5	4,921	31.9	4,920	31.4
Kingston upon Thames	1,158	12.7	907	9.4	933	9.7
Merton	2,543	20.8	1,875	15.8	1,677	14.1
Newham	12,319	51.0	12,254	48.0	11,584	44.6
Redbridge	4,962	27.4	6,214	31.3	5,402	26.8
Richmond upon Thames	778	7.5	796	7.7	896	8.7
Sutton	1,636	12.7	1,839	14.6	1,794	14.1
Waltham Forest	4,192	23.0	4,286	22.9	3,289	18.1

	2003		*2004*	
	Number absent	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*	*Number absent*	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*
London, City of	0	0.0	25	14.2
Camden	2,874	30.8	2,691	28.6
Greenwich	6,674	38.1	6,254	35.9
Hackney	4,943	33.5	5,023	33.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,510	19.7	1,752	22.6
Islington	4,716	36.5	3,864	30.5
Kensington and Chelsea	1,505	26.4	1,108	19.1
Lambeth	5,348	31.7	4,996	29.9
Lewisham	6,753	34.6	7,151	36.6
Southwark	9,472	46.2	8,753	41.5
Tower Hamlets	8,173	46.8	8,364	47.5
Wandsworth	2,831	19.6	2,794	20.1
Westminster, City of	2,346	26.3	1,889	21.4
Barking and Dagenham	6,265	41.2	5,568	36.6
Barnet	4,318	19.4	5,328	24.1
Bexley	1,967	11.0	2,016	11.3
Brent	3,036	16.2	3,246	17.2
Bromley	3,180	14.5	4,405	20.6
Croydon	5,456	21.2	5,727	22.1

	2003		2004	
	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
Ealing	2,166	10.1	2,490	11.8
Enfield	7,446	32.0	6,514	27.7
Haringey	7,351	40.2	6,455	35.4
Harrow	1,675	9.7	1,514	8.7
Havering	1,745	10.0	1,732	10.0
Hillingdon	4,370	22.1	4,207	21.7
Hounslow	5,539	35.7	5,373	34.9
Kingston upon Thames	834	8.7	950	10.0
Merton	1,640	14.9	1,355	12.1
Newham	9,962	38.3	7,389	28.7
Redbridge	5,377	26.7	5,745	29.1
Richmond upon Thames	1,150	10.9	1,576	14.5
Sutton	1,594	12.7	1,609	13.0
Waltham Forest	3,500	19.6	3,759	21.3

Number of pupils ABS—maintained schools

Secondary

	2000		2001		2002	
LEA	*Number absent*	*As percentage of compulsory school age*	*Number absent*	*As percentage of compulsory school age*	*Number absent*	*As percentage of compulsory school age*
London, City of	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Camden	1,774	20.5	2,093	24.2	1,985	22.8
Greenwich	2,818	22.3	3,345	26.0	3,715	28.6
Hackney	1,945	28.2	2,595	33.5	2,876	35.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,268	24.5	1,302	21.0	1,375	22.1
Islington	2,371	33.5	2,739	36.1	2,360	29.9
Kensington and Chelsea	1,080	34.6	1,077	34.4	925	30.0
Lambeth	1,418	19.9	1,674	23.4	1,746	24.3
Lewisham	4,224	38.8	4,595	40.8	4,474	43.4
Southwark	2,581	25.5	2,566	24.4	3,311	30.8
Tower Hamlets	5,567	42.2	5,592	41.5	5,831	42.9
Wandsworth	1,910	21.3	2,155	24.1	2,218	24.9
Westminster, City of	3,066	43.5	1,799	25.2	2,331	32.6
Barking and Dagenham	2,804	28.7	3,181	31.7	3,614	34.5
Barnet	2,601	15.2	3,148	17.6	3,939	22.1
Bexley	2,546	17.0	3,224	20.6	3,361	21.0
Brent	1,875	15.4	1,930	15.6	1,874	15.0
Bromley	2,030	11.8	3,519	19.9	3,188	17.6
Croydon	2,323	14.7	2,314	13.5	2,688	15.2
Ealing	2,062	15.4	2,804	20.7	2,545	18.5
Enfield	5,509	31.5	6,238	35.2	5,864	32.9
Haringey	2,697	26.3	2,786	30.0	4,150	37.5
Harrow	862	9.7	1,111	12.2	1,097	11.9
Havering	1,753	11.9	2,112	14.0	2,101	13.7
Hillingdon	3,434	24.8	3,125	22.1	3,541	23.8
Hounslow	1,866	13.6	1,681	12.1	2,494	18.2
Kingston upon Thames	1,280	17.9	997	13.6	1,143	15.3
Merton	2,168	28.5	2,156	28.9	2,106	29.2
Newham	7,622	43.7	7,831	44.5	7,363	41.5
Redbridge	1,654	10.8	2,072	13.7	2,800	18.2
Richmond upon Thames	1,478	19.2	2,332	30.1	2,700	35.7
Sutton	1,026	8.8	1,512	12.4	2,106	17.0
Waltham Forest	3,476	27.5	3,715	28.9	3,749	28.5

	2003		2004	
	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	n/a	0	n/a
Camden	1,755	23.2	1,628	21.6
Greenwich	4,426	33.5	4,913	36.9
Hackney	2,112	26.2	2,727	37.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,492	23.7	1,580	25.6
Islington	2,811	35.2	2,876	36.1
Kensington and Chelsea	890	28.8	568	18.3
Lambeth	1,685	23.2	870	11.5

	2003		2004	
	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age
Lewisham	4,137	36.6	5,340	47.2
Southwark	3,897	35.6	2,831	25.2
Tower Hamlets	6,501	48.2	6,186	45.6
Wandsworth	2,322	25.7	1,705	21.6
Westminster, City of	2,992	41.4	3,302	44.7
Barking and Dagenham	3,851	35.4	4,019	35.5
Barnet	3,324	18.5	4,090	23.4
Bexley	2,944	18.8	3,556	21.1
Brent	2,705	19.8	2,240	16.1
Bromley	4,302	23.8	3,428	18.7
Croydon	4,733	26.2	3,931	21.9
Ealing	2,279	16.3	2,990	21.3
Enfield	6,443	35.2	8,062	42.7
Haringey	4,666	41.7	4,325	38.2
Harrow	1,125	12.1	1,100	11.8
Havering	1,993	12.8	2,237	14.2
Hillingdon	4,729	31.4	4,992	31.9
Hounslow	2,317	16.5	3,074	22.0
Kingston upon Thames	845	11.1	724	10.8
Merton	2,295	27.8	2,073	25.2
Newham	6,969	38.3	6,367	35.0
Redbridge	2,630	16.6	4,203	26.3
Richmond upon Thames	2,419	31.8	2,737	35.9
Sutton	1,938	15.1	2,518	19.2
Waltham Forest	3,316	24.9	5,012	36.6

n/a = not applicable

Number of pupils ABS—maintained schools

	Specials					
	2000		2001		2002	
	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Camden	115	44.4	81	29.3	99	37.1
Greenwich	231	42.1	243	46.3	205	44.5
Hackney	181	56.9	223	60.1	175	46.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	84	28.5	79	26.3	68	22.8
Islington	89	37.9	116	51.6	24	11.3
Kensington and Chelsea	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	0.0	[redacted]	[redacted]
Lambeth	207	34.6	215	43.4	259	45.2
Lewisham	242	47.2	275	54.5	250	48.6
Southwark	131	32.0	214	50.6	218	48.4
Tower Hamlets	113	26.0	104	26.0	113	30.2
Wandsworth	233	40.0	254	44.3	225	40.1
Westminster, City of	66	48.2	33	25.4	31	24.2
Barking and Dagenham	0	0.0	3	1.8	6	3.4
Barnet	77	28.3	77	28.7	64	23.1
Bexley	64	16.0	82	21.0	61	15.4
Brent	80	21.6	70	18.0	62	16.6
Bromley	77	19.7	158	39.6	63	16.2
Croydon	197	39.1	199	39.7	148	28.8
Ealing	96	21.1	74	16.2	94	21.2
Enfield	124	27.1	144	32.7	154	35.6
Haringey	136	40.0	89	28.1	87	30.6
Harrow	71	38.8	44	23.2	74	38.9
Havering	9	3.4	19	9.0	44	20.9
Hillingdon	106	33.1	152	35.4	121	27.4
Hounslow	109	28.8	85	23.2	89	23.7
Kingston upon Thames	48	20.2	70	28.0	67	25.9
Merton	95	39.6	92	38.7	97	39.8
Newham	63	50.8	27	23.7	17	15.0
Redbridge	160	37.0	158	37.9	189	46.6
Richmond upon Thames	26	15.5	20	13.3	25	17.6
Sutton	137	50.9	111	46.1	105	42.0
Waltham Forest	168	28.5	119	20.6	110	19.0

	2003		2004	
	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	n/a	0	n/a
Camden	62	23.8	57	20.3
Greenwich	224	52.0	222	52.9
Hackney	222	62.9	188	53.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	69	26.0	70	26.0
Islington	10	4.6	6	2.7
Kensington and Chelsea	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Lambeth	150	38.6	215	39.7
Lewisham	212	39.0	234	45.6
Southwark	209	47.1	243	55.5
Tower Hamlets	106	31.7	101	32.3
Wandsworth	255	44.9	239	43.7
Westminster, City of	[1]	[1]	0	0.0
Barking and Dagenham	8	4.8	[1]	[1]
Barnet	46	15.6	90	29.6
Bexley	87	22.0	118	28.6
Brent	46	12.5	33	9.4
Bromley	75	18.0	84	19.6
Croydon	216	39.6	138	25.6
Ealing	81	19.2	73	16.7
Enfield	114	25.4	131	29.2
Haringey	81	27.4	93	32.1
Harrow	94	44.5	73	33.8
Havering	46	20.5	55	24.3
Hillingdon	130	29.7	113	25.5
Hounslow	90	24.2	93	25.1
Kingston upon Thames	37	15.0	23	10.3
Merton	92	37.2	71	30.2
Newham	57	42.9	74	55.2
Redbridge	169	41.5	167	42.6
Richmond upon Thames	21	14.8	23	17.2
Sutton	168	59.8	125	46.1
Waltham Forest	112	20.4	71	12.4

n/a = not applicable
[1] not available due to low number

Sixth Forms

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 368W, on sixth forms, when the guidance to which she refers will be published. [8482]

Jacqui Smith: We plan to issue the guidance for consultation with stakeholder representative groups later in the summer.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 368W and 220W, who the national and local stakeholders are, in addition to the Learning and Skills Council and local education authorities. [8483]

Jacqui Smith: Officials have spoken about the establishment of school sixth forms to a very wide range of national and local stakeholders in the context of the five-year strategy and informally in the normal course of business. These include school, college and work-based learning providers and a variety of representative bodies.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 368W, on sixth forms, if she will make a statement on the outcome of the discussions to which she refers. [8484]

Jacqui Smith: Discussions with stakeholders have informed the development of the guidance on the organisation of 16–19 provision that we plan to issue for consultation with stakeholder representative bodies later in the summer.

State Boarding Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was of building repairs for state boarding schools in the last year for which figures are available. [8488]

Jacqui Smith: The Department does not hold information on the total cost of repairs carried out to school premises.

Revenue funding and the bulk of schools capital funding is allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including premises maintenance. Prioritisation of need should be through an open, rigorous and consultative asset management planning process, based on assessments of the needs of all schools.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996–97 to £5.5 billion this year and will rise further to

£6.3 billion by 2007–08. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock.

Sure Start

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate she has made of whether local authorities have sufficient capital funding to meet targets for phase two Sure Start children's centres. [6711]

Beverley Hughes: A total of £947 million funding has been made available to local authorities in the second phase of the children's centres programme. This includes £405,523,772 capital funding. We are confident that the individual capital allocations given to local authorities are sufficient for them to achieve the children centres targets we have set for them in the period 2006–08. The funding has been formulated on the premise that children's centres will grow out of a range of existing provision such as Sure Start local programmes, neighbourhood nurseries and primary schools.

Teachers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have been the victims of offences of violence in each of the last 10 years. [4946]

Jacqui Smith: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my reply in the House of Commons Library.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have been assaulted by *(a)* pupils and *(b)* parents in (i) each London borough and (ii) London in each of the last five years. [8299]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time teachers there were in each of the last five years in each London borough; and if she will make a statement. [8403]

Jacqui Smith: The following tables provide the information requested for January of each year from 1997 to 2004, the latest information available at LEA level.

Number of full-time teachers

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
City of London	10	20	10	20	10
Camden	1,190	1,240	1,400	1,300	1,260
Greenwich	1,810	1,820	1,870	1,900	1,950
Hackney	1,400	1,370	1,350	1,470	1,400
Hammersmith and Fulham	890	910	930	970	1,020
Islington	1,220	1,180	1,310	1,250	1,310
Kensington and Chelsea	580	600	610	640	620
Lambeth	1,400	1,420	1,510	1,470	1,510
Lewisham	1,640	1,730	1,800	1,780	1,740
Southwark	1,710	1,810	1,900	1,940	1,900
Tower Hamlets	1,990	1,980	2,010	2,070	2,060
Wandsworth	1,500	1,530	1,570	1,550	1,570
Westminster	1,090	1,140	1,160	1,160	1,160
Barking and Dagenham	1,400	1,420	1,460	1,510	1,610
Barnet	2,360	2,360	2,480	2,490	2,450
Bexley	1,790	1,870	1,980	1,920	1,940
Brent	1,960	1,940	2,000	2,170	2,190
Bromley	2,150	2,270	2,350	2,290	2,320
Croydon	2,470	2,460	2,530	2,640	2,610
Baling	2,080	2,050	2,130	2,060	2,120
Enfield	2,430	2,480	2,430	2,540	2,590
Haringey	1,720	1,730	1,740	1,750	1,740
Harrow	1,190	1,310	1,310	1,340	1,350
Havering	1,720	1,760	1,840	1,870	1,870
Hillingdon	1,980	2,010	2,060	2,060	2,160
Hounslow	1,780	1,860	1,830	1,840	1,940
Kingston upon Thames	930	950	960	1,050	1,010
Merton	1,030	1,090	1,100	1,120	1,070
Newham	2,270	2,320	2,420	2,460	2,670
Red bridge	2,020	2,170	2,190	2,240	2,280
Richmond upon Thames	860	860	880	940	890
Sutton	1,330	1,380	1,420	1,540	1,500
Waltham Forest	1,910	1,800	1,910	1,760	1,930
London	51,800	52,810	54,440	55,080	55,750

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies.

Full-time equivalent number of part-time teachers

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
City of London	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Camden	150	200	160	150	160
Greenwich	230	210	210	240	240
Hackney	110	110	120	140	140
Hammersmith and Fulham	110	100	80	90	110
Islington	130	120	150	130	140
Kensington and Chelsea	60	60	60	80	70
Lambeth	220	160	160	160	160
Lewisham	240	250	270	270	270
Southwark	140	160	170	150	130
Tower Hamlets	260	200	210	240	230
Wandsworth	190	260	200	200	200
Westminster	100	120	140	150	130
Barking and Dagenham	70	60	60	70	70
Barnet	350	390	340	360	350
Bexley	130	160	180	160	170
Brent	150	170	160	200	160
Bromley	180	270	290	300	300
Croydon	410	360	330	230	280
Ealing	170	170	190	250	190
Enfield	310	190	230	280	300
Haringey	130	120	150	150	170
Harrow	200	180	190	210	210
Havering	170	190	200	190	220
Hillingdon	150	170	170	170	200
Hounslow	160	160	180	170	170
Kingston upon Thames	120	120	110	120	140
Merton	120	120	120	130	120
Newham	80	100	100	110	120
Red bridge	180	210	190	230	230
Richmond upon Thames	170	180	210	150	160
Button	150	150	160	170	200
Waltham Forest	150	140	110	180	150
London	5,500	5,480	5,610	5,840	5,850

[1] Nil or less than 5.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* full-time teachers and *(b)* full-time equivalent teachers and *(c)* full-time equivalent teaching assistants there were in the London borough of Sutton in (i) 1985 and (ii) the last year for which figures are available. [7246]

Jacqui Smith: The following table provides the available information. The numbers of teaching assistants for 1985 are not available—collection of data comparable with those for 2004 did not commence until 1995 and these have been included in the table.

Teacher and teaching assistant numbers, Sutton LEA

	1985	1995	2004
Teachers			
Full-time[1]	1,140	1,230	1,440
Full-time equivalent[2]	1,210	1,360	1,700
Teaching assistants			
Full-time equivalent	n/a	120	370

n/a = not available

[1] Includes full-time regular qualified teachers.

[2] Includes the full-time equivalent of all regular teachers.

Sources:

Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (form 618g) for teacher numbers.

Annual School Census for teaching assistants.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the Teaching and Learning Responsibility Payments Scheme. [8543]

Jacqui Smith: The new Teaching and Learning Responsibility payments for teachers, which replace current management allowances from 1 January 2006, will make a positive contribution to improving the performance of our schools by focusing payments to teachers for additional responsibilities on matters related to the teaching and learning of pupils, rather than those management functions which do not require a qualified teacher.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Teaching and Learning Responsibility Scheme increases the pay of teachers with managerial responsibilities. [8544]

Jacqui Smith: It will be for schools to determine the levels of Teaching and Learning Responsibility payments awarded to teachers. Schools will take these decisions in the context of the financial parameters for the award of the two levels of Teaching and Learning

Responsibility payments, the criterion and factors for the award of TLRs and the decisions they have made on their school staffing structure.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how her Department ensures that teachers who undertake managerial responsibilities are appropriately remunerated. [8545]

Jacqui Smith: The school teachers' pay and conditions document provides the framework for the payment of teachers in maintained schools. This is reviewed and updated regularly following recommendations from the independent School Teachers' Review Body, which takes evidence from the national representatives of interested parties, including employers and teachers. The Department strives to work in close cooperation with these partners to ensure that schools have an effective and appropriate framework for rewarding teachers.

Temporary Classrooms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 371W, on temporary classrooms, if she will take steps to obtain information on the numbers of temporary classrooms in the local education authorities who have yet to provide accurate data. [6817]

Jacqui Smith: Authorities are encouraged to supply good quality, comprehensive premises data. However, there are no statutory requirements to do so and no plans to take measures, other than encouragement, in relation to authorities with poor quality, or incomplete data. A new data set has been requested from authorities by the end of 2005.

Truancy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils truanted in each London borough in each of the last five years. [8334]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

These figures relate to unauthorised absence, this includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Number of pupils absent for at least one half day due to unauthorised absence, 2000 to 2004: maintained schools in England (excluding special schools and CTCs)

	Primary					
	2000		*2001*		*2002*	
Local education authority	*Number absent*	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*	*Number absent*	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*	*Number absent*	*As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age*
London, City of	75	42.4	60	32.8	24	13.5
Camden	2,633	28.3	3,503	37.5	3,596	38.5
Greenwich	6,141	35.6	6,205	35.5	6,050	34.9
Hackney	5,187	34.7	5,422	36.7	5,121	34.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,588	31.0	1,867	24.1	2,057	25.6
Islington	4,206	32.4	4,265	32.2	4,443	33.9
Kensington and Chelsea	1,721	34.9	1,592	27.6	1,663	29.2
Lambeth	5,424	36.6	5,647	35.2	4,489	28.7
Lewisham	7,199	39.7	8,376	42.3	7,440	38.5
Southwark	7,713	42.2	7,912	41.7	8,816	43.9
Tower Hamlets	8,581	49.7	8,779	49.9	8,265	48.0
Wandsworth	3,035	21.1	2,841	19.9	2,680	19.0
Westminster, City of	2,623	35.2	2,481	29.4	2,505	28.7
Barking and Dagenham	5,758	38.2	5,602	36.9	6,124	40.6
Barnet	3,826	17.9	4,070	18.4	4,393	20.0
Bexley	2,286	13.4	1,861	10.2	2,098	11.4
Brent	3,971	21.2	3,198	17.4	3,262	17.4
Bromley	3,090	14.0	2,941	13.1	2,943	13.4
Croydon	4,156	16.2	4,829	18.1	4,704	17.8
Ealing	3,722	17.3	3,142	14.6	2,378	11.1
Enfield	6,444	29.5	6,559	28.8	7,149	30.6
Haringey	6,016	38.7	6,723	39.1	7,210	40.3
Harrow	3,145	17.8	2,782	16.1	2,274	13.5
Havering	1,414	7.9	1,573	8.7	1,727	9.8
Hillingdon	5,292	25.8	5,330	27.8	4,875	24.4
Hounslow	4,213	26.5	4,921	31.9	4,920	31.4
Kingston upon Thames	1,158	12.7	907	9.4	933	9.7
Merton	2,543	20.8	1,875	15.8	1,677	14.1
Newham	12,319	51.0	12,254	48.0	11,584	44.6
Redbridge	4,962	27.4	6,214	31.3	5,402	26.8
Richmond upon Thames	778	7.5	796	7.7	896	8.7
Sutton	1,636	12.7	1,839	14.6	1,794	14.1
Waltham Forest	4,192	23.0	4,286	22.9	3,289	18.1

	2003		2004	
	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	0.0	25	14.2
Camden	2,874	30.8	2,691	28.6
Greenwich	6,674	38.1	6,254	35.9
Hackney	4,943	33.5	5,023	33.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,510	19.7	1,752	22.6
Islington	4,716	36.5	3,864	30.5
Kensington and Chelsea	1,505	26.4	1,108	19.1
Lambeth	5,348	31.7	4,996	29.9
Lewisham	6,753	34.6	7,151	36.6
Southwark	9,472	46.2	8,753	41.5
Tower Hamlets	8,173	46.8	8,364	47.5
Wandsworth	2,831	19.6	2,794	20.1
Westminster, City of	2,346	26.3	1,889	21.4
Barking and Dagenham	6,265	41.2	5,568	36.6
Barnet	4,318	19.4	5,328	24.1
Bexley	1,967	11.0	2,016	11.3
Brent	3,036	16.2	3,246	17.2
Bromley	3,180	14.5	4,405	20.6
Croydon	5,456	21.2	5,727	22.1
Ealing	2,166	10.1	2,490	11.8
Enfield	7,446	32.0	6,514	27.7
Haringey	7,351	40.2	6,455	35.4
Harrow	1,675	9.7	1,514	8.7
Havering	1,745	10.0	1,732	10.0
Hillingdon	4,370	22.1	4,207	21.7
Hounslow	5,539	35.7	5,373	34.9
Kingston upon Thames	834	8.7	950	10.0
Merton	1,640	14.9	1,355	12.1
Newham	9,962	38.3	7,389	28.7
Redbridge	5,377	26.7	5,745	29.1
Richmond upon Thames	1,150	10.9	1,576	14.5
Sutton	1,594	12.7	1,609	13.0
Waltham Forest	3,500	19.6	3,759	21.3

Number of pupils absent for at least one half day due to unauthorised absence, 2000 to 2004: maintained schools in England (excluding special schools and CTCs)

	Secondary					
	2000		2001		2002	
Local education authority	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	Number absent	As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	[—]	0	[—]	0	[—]
Camden	1,774	20.5	2,093	24.2	1,985	22.8
Greenwich	2,818	22.3	3,345	26.0	3,715	28.6
Hackney	1,945	28.2	2,595	33.5	2,876	35.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,268	24.5	1,302	21.0	1,375	22.1
Islington	2,371	33.5	2,739	36.1	2,360	29.9
Kensington and Chelsea	1,080	34.6	1,077	34.4	925	30.0
Lambeth	1,418	19.9	1,674	23.4	1,746	24.3
Lewisham	4,224	38.8	4,595	40.8	4,474	43.4
Southwark	2,581	25.5	2,566	24.4	3,311	30.8
Tower Hamlets	5,567	42.2	5,592	41.5	5,831	42.9
Wandsworth	1,910	21.3	2,155	24.1	2,218	24.9
Westminster, City of	3,066	43.5	1,799	25.2	2,331	32.6
Barking and Dagenham	2,804	28.7	3,181	31.7	3,614	34.5
Barnet	2,601	15.2	3,148	17.6	3,939	22.1
Bexley	2,546	17.0	3,224	20.6	3,361	21.0
Brent	1,875	15.4	1,930	15.6	1,874	15.0
Bromley	2,030	11.8	3,519	19.9	3,188	17.6
Croydon	2,323	14.7	2,314	13.5	2,688	15.2
Ealing	2,062	15.4	2,804	20.7	2,545	18.5
Enfield	5,509	31.5	6,238	35.2	5,864	32.9
Haringey	2,697	26.3	2,786	30.0	4,150	37.5
Harrow	862	9.7	1,111	12.2	1,097	11.9
Havering	1,753	11.9	2,112	14.0	2,101	13.7
Hillingdon	3,434	24.8	3,125	22.1	3,541	23.8
Hounslow	1,866	13.6	1,681	12.1	2,494	18.2
Kingston upon Thames	1,280	17.9	997	13.6	1,143	15.3

Number of pupils absent for at least one half day due to unauthorised absence, 2000 to 2004: maintained schools in England (excluding special schools and CTCs)

Secondary

Local education authority	2000 Number absent	2000 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	2001 Number absent	2001 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	2002 Number absent	2002 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
Merton	2,168	28.5	2,156	28.9	2,106	29.2
Newham	7,622	43.7	7,831	44.5	7,363	41.5
Redbridge	1,654	10.8	2,072	13.7	2,800	18.2
Richmond upon Thames	1,478	19.2	2,332	30.1	2,700	35.7
Sutton	1,026	8.8	1,512	12.4	2,106	17.0
Waltham Forest	3,476	27.5	3,715	28.9	3,749	28.5

Local education authority	2003 Number absent	2003 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age	2004 Number absent	2004 As percentage of pupils of compulsory school age
London, City of	0	[1]—	0	[1]—
Camden	1,755	23.2	1,628	21.6
Greenwich	4,426	33.5	4,913	36.9
Hackney	2,112	26.2	2,727	37.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,492	23.7	1,580	25.6
Islington	2,811	35.2	2,876	36.1
Kensington and Chelsea	890	28.8	568	18.3
Lambeth	1,685	23.2	870	11.5
Lewisham	4,137	36.6	5,340	47.2
Southwark	3,897	35.6	2,831	25.2
Tower Hamlets	6,501	48.2	6,186	45.6
Wandsworth	2,322	25.7	1,705	21.6
Westminster, City of	2,992	41.4	3,302	44.7
Barking and Dagenham	3,851	35.4	4,019	35.5
Barnet	3,324	18.5	4,090	23.4
Bexley	2,944	18.8	3,556	21.1
Brent	2,705	19.8	2,240	16.1
Bromley	4,302	23.8	3,428	18.7
Croydon	4,733	26.2	3,931	21.9
Ealing	2,279	16.3	2,990	21.3
Enfield	6,443	35.2	8,062	42.7
Haringey	4,666	41.7	4,325	38.2
Harrow	1,125	12.1	1,100	11.8
Havering	1,993	12.8	2,237	14.2
Hillingdon	4,729	31.4	4,992	31.9
Hounslow	2,317	16.5	3,074	22.0
Kingston upon Thames	845	11.1	724	10.8
Merton	2,295	27.8	2,073	25.2
Newham	6,969	38.3	6,367	35.0
Redbridge	2,630	16.6	4,203	26.3
Richmond upon Thames	2,419	31.8	2,737	35.9
Sutton	1,938	15.1	2,518	19.2
Waltham Forest	3,316	24.9	5,012	36.6

[1] Not applicable

University Admissions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps her Department has taken regarding post-qualification application to university for undergraduate courses. [8471]

Bill Rammell: In September 2004, the Secretary of State announced that work would begin to look at the options for implementing a system of post-qualification application to higher education. Officials have been taking this work forward, consulting widely with interested parties and engaging with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Government, of course, respect the autonomy of the HE sector and is absolutely clear that admissions policies are entirely the responsibility of HE institutions. Later this year, we plan to conduct a formal public consultation exercise to seek views on possible reforms to applications procedures.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if she will make a statement on the use of aptitude tests for university admissions. [8473]

Bill Rammell: The independent review of admissions to higher education which was led by Professor Steven Schwartz acknowledged that assessing an applicant's

potential for higher education (HE) study, or recognising ability which may not be reflected fully in Level 3 examination results, is a key issue for fair admissions. The steering group's report in September 2004 suggested that a test that is able to predict performance in HE may help to uncover hidden talent. It also acknowledged the potential burden for applicants of up to six sets of admissions requirements and means of assessment. The report therefore recommended a national research study to assess the idea of a national test of potential. We support this as an early task for a new centre of expertise on admissions which the steering group also recommended. The HE sector is discussing the formation of that centre. Whilst we do not believe in tests for tests sake, if there is a genuine need for a national test it would be right to explore the opportunity.

Vocational Learning

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 362W, on post-16 education, what action her Department will take to encourage private sector providers of vocational learning to come forward through competitions. [8481]

Jacqui Smith: The LSC already contracts with private sector providers for post-16 learning provision, some selected on the basis of competitive tendering arrangements. We expect the LSC to build on their experience in encouraging high quality private sector providers to enter the new 16–19 competitions where the output specifications are for vocational provision. In addition, the 14–19 White Paper heralded our intention to develop a comprehensive vocational network, including public and private sector providers, that will contribute to delivery of the 14–19 entitlement for all learners by 2015.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on reports of the destruction of the Bahá'í cemetery in Yazd in February and the desecration of a Bahá'í corpse; and what assessment his Department has made of the official investigations into these crimes. [7943]

Dr. Howells: We have received reports that a Bahá'í cemetery in Yazd was destroyed. Cars were said to have been driven over graves, leaving human remains exposed. We condemn any such action unreservedly. We are not aware of an official investigation.

We have made clear to the Iranian authorities our serious concern about the situation of the Bahá'í community in Iran. We have also encouraged the EU to take action, doing so most recently on 21 June. We will make support for human rights a priority in the EU's relations with Iran during the UK's presidency of the EU.

Bangladesh

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of human rights in Bangladesh; what recent research he has evaluated on the situation; and what representations he has made to the Bangladeshi authorities on action to prevent human rights abuses. [7892]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made in another place by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham) on Bangladesh on 23 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1780–86. We will continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Bangladesh about the human rights situation and the need to strengthen the rule of law both bilaterally and with our EU partners. We look to the Government of Bangladesh to uphold its international human rights obligations, such as those contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of which Bangladesh is a signatory.

British Embassies

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many new British embassies have been opened since 1997. [7009]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has opened 10 Embassies and High Commissions since 1997. The following table provides further details. In some cases the mission has been opened previously, but not formally as an Embassy or High Commission. The previous status of such missions is shown in the table.

Embassies and high commissions opened since 1997

Mission	*Previous status*
2000–01	
Tripoli	Mission originally represented by British Interests Section of the Italian Embassy.
2001–02	
Pyongyang	
Asmara	Previously opened with local staff only.
Bamako	Previously opened with local staff only.
Dushanbe	
Kabul	
2002–03	
Conakry	Previously opened with local staff only.
Dili	Mission originally opened as mission to the UN in Jakarta
Chisinau	
2004–05	
Baghdad	

In reply to the right hon. Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) in answer to a similar written parliamentary question on 11 February 2003, *Official Report*, column 722W, I stated incorrectly that our Embassy in Asmara opened in financial year 2000–01. This should have read 2001–02, as shown in the table. I would like to apologise for the error.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British embassies have been closed since 1997. [7010]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has closed five embassies and high commissions since 1997. These were in Bamako, Managua, San Salvador, Tegucigalpa and Asuncion. A further post, Nassau, is scheduled to close on 30 June 2005.

Charlotte Wilson

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the killing in Burundi in December 2000 during which Charlotte Wilson, a British national, was killed, constitutes a war crime prosecutable via the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement. [7754]

Ian Pearson: It is possible that the attack in which Charlotte Wilson and many others were murdered could constitute a "war crime" as defined under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). However, the ICC could not have jurisdiction in this case as the crime pre-dates the coming into force of the Rome Statute on 1 July 2002. It is impossible to refer crimes which took place before this date to the ICC.

Whether to define this attack as a "war crime" can only be decided upon by a competent court. The UK Government will continue to press the Burundian authorities to investigate this crime fully and bring Charlotte Wilson's killers to justice.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps through *(a)* the UN, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* diplomatic channels to ensure the December 2000 killings in which British national Charlotte Wilson was killed is fully pursued and its perpetrators are brought to justice and are not given any amnesty; and if he will make a statement. [7755]

Ian Pearson: We will continue to press the Burundian authorities for progress in bringing Charlotte Wilson's killers to justice. Our ambassador to Burundi raised this most recently with the Burundian Interior Minister on 17 June.

We have made clear in recent UN Security Council and European Union statements that the climate of impunity in the Great Lakes region must end. We will continue to push for those that have committed serious human rights abuses to be brought to trial.

We have expressed support for the UN Secretary-General's proposal for a mixed UN and Burundian special chamber to investigate and prosecute those most responsible for such crimes.

Computer Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft his Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside his Department. [6948]

Mr. Straw: There is no evidence of any successful hacking attacks being mounted against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 2002 nor is there any evidence of computer based fraud.

Details of recorded thefts of computers are as follows:

	Laptops	*Personal computers*
2001–02[1]	—	—
2002–03	4	0
2003–04	2	0
2004–05	3	2

[1] No records exist for this period

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer the letter dated 29 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Y Abbas. [7886]

Dr. Howells: A reply to my right hon. Friend was sent on 12 May 2005.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on visas dated 21 February 2005 regarding a family reunion for Mr. B. Sargainell. [7970]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas have contacted my right hon. Friend with regard to this case, which is a matter for the Home Office.

European Convention on Human Rights

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the European Convention on Human Rights for the Government's policy on the provision of information to overseas prosecuting authorities in cases which would lead to the imposition of the death penalty. [7843]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* The opposition of the Government to the death penalty is well known. When deciding whether to provide information to prosecuting authorities abroad the Government takes all relevant factors into account, including the possibility of the death penalty being imposed and our international obligations. Our view is that this policy is in line with the obligations of the UK under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Middle East

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with other members of the Quartet about monitoring Israeli withdrawal from the specified settlements in the northern West Bank; which areas are included in this withdrawal; what the timescale is; how the land evacuated will be returned to Palestinian control; and what compensation has been agreed for the former Palestinian landowners for damage incurred. [8052]

Dr. Howells: Quartet (UN, US, EU and Russia) discussions on Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank are ongoing. Most recently, Quartet Principals, along with Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement James Wolfensohn and US Security

Co-ordinator General Ward, met in London on 23 June to discuss these issues, prior to further discussion at the G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting.

The Quartet discussions continue to focus on the geographical areas to be included in the withdrawal, the timescale for withdrawal and how the areas will be returned to Palestinian control. These are also subject to close discussion with and between the parties, assisted by Mr. Wolfensohn. Compensation for former Palestinian landowners has not been agreed at this stage.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with other G8 Foreign Ministers about independent monitoring of Israeli and Palestinian authorities' compliance with commitments during the Gaza withdrawal; and what mechanisms have been put in place. [8053]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary hosted a meeting of G8 Foreign Ministers in London on 23 June. Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement, James Wolfensohn, and US Security Co-ordinator, General William Ward, also attended to discuss the Middle East peace process and Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. James Wolfensohn set out his plans for assisting disengagement, including to help both parties implement the actions required of them, to encourage them to co-ordinate fully with each other and for the international community to support Palestinian economic and institutional development. G8 Foreign Ministers offered support and appreciation for his work.

Radiological Weapons (Public Education)

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken in response to the recommendation of the Report of the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, A more secure world: Our shared responsibility, that the public should be educated on the consequences of radiological weapons. [7371]

Dr. Howells: The Government take seriously their responsibility to prepare the public for emergencies, but is careful not to raise the profile of any specific risk disproportionately. General guidance on the steps the public can take to prepare for, and respond to, any major emergency is available on the preparing for emergencies website: (wwvv.preparingforemergencies.gov.uk). More detailed information is also available on the effects of radiological material at: (www.mi5.gov.uk. and wmv.hpa.org.uk).

The emergency services will always issue specific advice at the time of an incident, including any incident involving release of a radiological material.

Russia

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has made representations to the Russian Foreign Minister on issues relating to the ratification of Protocol 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [7709]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is actively engaged in a bilateral human rights dialogue with the Russian Government. We have raised Protocol 6 as part of this dialogue. The last round of the dialogue was held in Moscow on 23 May 2005.

We are also engaged, with our European partners, in bi-annual EU-Russia human rights consultations. The first session of consultations took place in Luxembourg on 1 March 2005. Again we raised the implementation in Russia of Protocol 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The next round of consultations is scheduled to take place under the UK presidency of the EU on 8 September 2005. We fully expect discussion of Protocol 6 to feature during these consultations.

In addition to this, staff at our embassy in Moscow continue to raise our concerns with their interlocutors in the Russian Government, including with official institutions in Russia that exist to protect and promote human rights.

Weapons in Space

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the UK Government policy on the US Administration's intention to base weapons in space. [7816]

Mr. Straw: We are not aware of any US Administration plans to deploy weapons in space.

Work-related Stress

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in his Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [7863]

Mr. Straw: My Department does not currently keep statistics on reported cases of work-related stress or on work-related stress as a sickness absence type. No compensation has been paid to employees because of work-related stress in the past three years. All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff, and dependants overseas, can discuss work-related and personal concerns in confidence with a trained welfare officer. Since March 2002, the FCO has also provided a confidential counselling and advice service to staff both in the UK and overseas, and to dependants overseas, through an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). Work-related stress is one of the issues for which the EAP can provide counselling and support. The cost is approximately £58,000 per annum.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to assist pupils suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in *(a)* schools and *(b)* colleges in Northern Ireland. [7836]

Angela E. Smith: Education and Library Boards' psychology services and behaviour support services offer advice to schools in relation to the management of pupils with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The type of support offered is dependent on the needs of the school or child but can range from advice on writing an individual behaviour plan to placement in a primary or post-primary guidance centre. Most pupils with ADHD have such extremely challenging behaviour that boards maintain statements of special educational need for them and provide funding for additional support to assist the school to meet the pupil's needs.

School staff can also receive advice and training in behaviour management strategies and through specific targeted interventions in the management of pupils with ADHD. These in-service courses are available in some board areas on a whole-school basis on request and through teacher or classroom assistant attendance at courses in teachers' centres.

In 2004, a working group of educational psychologists from across the five Education and Library Boards prepared two information booklets on ADHD which were published by DE—one a practical guide for parents and carers and the other a practical guide for schools.

The Department for Employment and Learning has put in place a range of initiatives and funding streams designed to assist FE college students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. These include the publication of a good practice guide; support for staff development activities for senior management, and financial assistance towards the costs of technical or carer support for learners.

Bus Shelters

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on the erection of bus shelters in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; and how much has been spent on *(a)* repairing and *(b)* replacing such shelters in each year since 2000. [7628]

Mr. Woodward: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcom McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman.

Letter from Dr. McKibbin to Mr. Nigel Dodds, dated June 2005:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question: "how much has been spent on the erection of bus shelters in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; and how much has been spent on *(a)* repairing and *(b)* replacing such shelters in each year since 2000."

I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service.

You may be aware that, in January 2001, roads service and most district councils entered into a 15-year contract with bus shelter provider Adshel, for the provision of approximately 1500 bus shelters throughout the council areas. The provision and maintenance of these shelters are funded by Adshel through advertising revenue, and are therefore provided at no cost to the Department. The Department has no knowledge of the costs incurred by Adshel in carrying out their contractual commitments.

District councils are still permitted to provide additional bus shelters at their own expense, however, Adshel have the sole advertising rights, and Translink is also permitted to erect bus shelters at their own expense under Permitted Development Rights.

In addition, roads service has a small budget of approximately £1000 per year to maintain the limited number of bus shelters provided by the Department prior to the commencement of the Adshel contract. However, we have not carried out any shelter replacements since 2000.

I hope this information is helpful.

Early Release (Recidivism)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners given early release under the terms of the Belfast Agreement have been returned to prison; and for what reasons. [7093]

Mr. Woodward: Of the 447 persons released under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1988 13 have been returned to prison in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of that Act because the Secretary of State believed they had broken, or were likely to break, their licence conditions.

Equality (Stranmillis University College)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total number of respondents was to the recent equality impact assessment of the governance arrangements at Stranmillis university college; and how many of these *(a)* supported and *(b)* opposed removing the transferor's representatives from the governing body. [7051]

Angela E. Smith: Ten responses to the recent equality assessment on the governance arrangements that will follow the incorporation of Stranmillis university college were received. Four respondents supported and four opposed removing the transferors' representatives from the governing body. Two made no comment on this issue.

Firearm Certificates

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average time taken for firearm certificate applications to be processed was in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [7170]

Mr. Woodward: The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland has released the following information.

Average length of time taken to process an application for a firearm certificate

	Weeks
[illegible]	14
[illegible]	14
August	14
September	14
October	14
November	28
December	
2005	
January	28
February	14
March	14

Average length of time taken to process an application for a firearm certificate

	Weeks
April	14
May	14
June	14

[1] Does not reflect processing time by local police.
[2] Reflects additional time needed for staff training and other preparatory work to facilitate introduction of new computerised licensing system.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what insurance arrangements for third parties are in place in respect of premises and properties in the possession of Invest Northern Ireland. [7851]

Angela E. Smith: Invest NI carries public liability insurance on all of its estates.

Pension Credit

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are in receipt of pension credit; and what the average amount of pension credit is. [7833]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of people in Northern Ireland in receipt of pension credit and their corresponding average amounts of pension credit, broken down by claimants and partners. The data are taken at May 2005.

	Numbers	*Average amount (£)*
Claimants	90,929	57.64
Partners	19,952	71.29

Safety Cameras

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many speed cameras have been in place in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001. [7830]

Mr. Woodward: During 2001, 2002 and up to June 2003, there were five mobile safety camera vehicles in operation across Northern Ireland.

The launch of the Northern Ireland Safety Camera Scheme on 1 July 2003 saw these resources boosted by the installation of three fixed site safety cameras at locations on the Antrim Road, Saintfield Road and the Upper Newtownards Road and the deployment of an additional three mobile safety camera vehicles.

The installation of a further fixed site safety camera on the Springfield Road in November 2003 means that there are now four fixed site safety cameras and eight mobile safety camera vehicles in operation within Northern Ireland. All are at locations with a history of speeding and collision.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been raised through fines imposed as a result of speeding detected by speed cameras in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001. [7831]

Mr. Woodward: The number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued for excess speed since 2001 that have been paid are:

	FPNs issued	*Fine levied per FPN (£)*	*Revenue generated (£)*
2001	10,750	60	645,000
2002	16,170	60	970,200
2003	12,913	60	774,780
2004	12,010	60	720,600

The fine revenue generated by safety cameras operated in Northern Ireland is paid into the UK Consolidated Fund and at the moment, none of that revenue is returned to the PSNI because of the unique manner in which the PSNI is funded by Treasury.

However, legislation is currently being prepared that will allow the PSNI to recover costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the Northern Ireland Safety Camera Scheme in future and this money will be used to develop the scheme through the identification of further routes and locations where the deployment of additional cameras can be used to maximize the reduction of serious casualties in future.

State Pension

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of women in Northern Ireland are entitled in their own right to a full basic state pension; what measures are being taken to increase this percentage; and if he will make a statement. [7390]

Mr. Hanson: As of September 2004, 15.6 per cent. of women of pensionable age were in receipt of a full basic state pension in their own right. The position of female pensioners today is largely a legacy of the past. When looking at the position across the UK of people of working age now there is very little difference between the proportions of men and women accruing state pension rights.

Many of the Government's labour market policies such as the national minimum wage, tax credits and new deals have been particularly helpful in supporting women remaining in, or returning to, employment and enabling them to build up pension entitlement.

The Pensions Commission has been looking at specific issues regarding women, and the Government have also commissioned their own report on women and pensions to be published by the end of this year.

In addition to this the Social Security Agency has an active programme, which includes the provision of forecasts and retirement planners to ensure that future pensioners are better informed and educated about their entitlements to state pension. A further process is also in place to ensure that all pensioners with any entitlement to state pension are identified, encouraged and facilitated to take up that entitlement.

Temporary Classrooms

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board area have had more than five temporary classrooms in each year since 2001. [7829]

Angela E. Smith: The Department does not have the information requested prior to 2004. A survey was carried out in 2004 to ascertain the number of temporary classrooms in the schools' estate. The result of the survey showed that at 31 March 2004, 18 schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board had more than five temporary classrooms. By 31 March 2005 the number stood at 17.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Computer-related Offences

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases of computer *(a)* hacking, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* theft her Department recorded in each year since 2001–02; and for each year, on how many occasions computer systems have been illegally accessed by computer hackers (i) within and (ii) outside her Department. [7183]

Bridget Prentice: The number of cases of computer hacking, fraud and theft recorded by the Lord Chancellor's Department and Department for Constitutional Affairs in each year since 2001–02 is as follows:

2001–02

	Number
(a) Hacking	2
(b) Fraud	0
(c) Theft	25

Illegal access by computer hackers in 2001–02 was (i) within the Department 1; (ii) outside the Department 1. Neither of the hacking incidents caused damage to the Departmental computer systems.

2002–03

	Number
(a) Hacking	0
(b) Fraud	0
(c) Theft	25

There was no reported illegal access by internal or external computer hackers in 2002–03.

2003–04

	Number
(a) Hacking	0
(b) Fraud	0
(c) Theft	33

There was no reported illegal access by internal or external computer hackers in 2003–04.

2004–05

	Number
(a) Hacking	0
(b) Fraud	0
(c) Theft	35

There was no reported illegal access by internal or external computer hackers in 2004–05.

Data Protection Act

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will introduce legislation to modify section 7(9) of the Data Protection Act 1998 to provide for a guarantee of the right of access to personal data as required by Article 12 of Directive 95/46/EC; and if she will make a statement. [8056]

Ms Harman: The Government currently have no plans to introduce legislation to modify the Data Protection Act 1998.

Electoral Registration

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which relevant software suppliers have confirmed that their products will be able to produce EML compliant electoral register data for 1 December 2005 electoral registers; which have said their products will not be able to do so; which have not yet expressed a view; and if she will make a statement. [7700]

Ms Harman: Of the six software companies that supply more than one electoral registration officer with their software, all have indicated that their product will be able to produce EML compliant electoral register data for 1 December 2005 electoral registers. This is on the understanding that the appropriate new version of the EML standard is agreed and published by the end of July 2005. We are currently approaching the small number of electoral registration officers who operate individual 'bespoke' software for their view on the viability of the target date.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what dates marked registers from the 2005 general election were received; what assessment her Department has made of the arrangements for storing the registers securely before being despatched to the Department; and if she will make a statement. [7701]

Ms Harman: Delivery of the marked electoral registers to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery usually occurs within a three week period after a general election. It is the duty of individual returning officers to arrange the delivery of all general election documentation to the Clerk of the Crown, either personally or through the Royal Mail as the universal service provider. Clear guidance is provided to returning officers covering the way in which documentation is to be packaged to enable secure and safe delivery.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the constituencies which have *(a)* all and *(b)* part of their marked registers from the 2005 general election missing; and if she will make a statement. [7702]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley (John Hemming) on 20 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 810W which concerned the marked electoral register for the Woking constituency. Investigations are still continuing.

There have been no other reports of constituencies' marked electoral registers either being mislaid, or missing sections.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the EML standard for electoral register data will be in place for the 1 December 2005 electoral registers; and if she will make a statement. [7712]

Ms Harman: 1 December 2005 is the latest date we have specified that electoral registration officers should be able to provide electronic copies of their register in compliance with a common EML standard. Suppliers of the relevant software have indicated that that date will be met if an appropriate update to the EML standard can be agreed and published by the end of July 2005. We are currently meeting that target date for a new version of EML.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was spent per elector on voter registration for each local authority area in the UK in descending order for the last year in which figures are available. [8556]

Ms Harman: Electoral registration is funded locally, and this information is not available.

General Election (Monitors)

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many international election monitors were present *(a)* in polling stations and *(b)* at counts during the 2005 General Election. [7902]

Ms Harman: We are aware that a number of international observers, including a delegation from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, were present during the 2005 General Election campaign. Observers' access to the electoral process is at the discretion of individual returning officers, and information about the numbers of observers attending polling stations and counts is not held centrally.

Judges (Sexual Offences Training)

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) if she will list the Court of Appeal judges who have been on a serious sexual offence course; [7687]

(2) what training in serious sexual offences is given to Court of Appeal judges who were promoted from the High Court prior to the introduction of the serious sexual offences course for High Court judges. [7690]

Ms Harman: This question relates to a matter that is the responsibility of the judiciary. The Lord Chief Justice informs me that; seven Court of Appeal judges have attended the serious sexual offences course.

The serious sexual offences seminar is, however, specifically designed for judges who hear rape trials. It is currently a residential two-day (over three days) event and past programmes have included talks on the following:

(1) Research into public attitudes to sexual offending and the views of complainants and victims on the way in which sexual offences proceedings are handled.

(2) The policies and practices of the police and Crown Prosecution Service in handling serious sexual offences.

(3) Issues of evidential and procedural law and practice which bear on the conduct of trials in such cases.

(4) Sentencing issues and the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders in the community and in prison. Also included in the programme is a series of discussions, in small groups, of trial and sentencing issues.

I would remind the hon. Member for Redcar that the Court of Appeal only considers matters of law in relation to sexual offences. It does not hear trials in relation to sexual offences. Therefore, although some Court of Appeal judges have attended the serious sexual offences seminar the Lord Chief Justice in conjunction with the Judicial Studies Board has decided that it is not a compulsory element of their training.

Judges of every rank who sit in crime, including the Court of Appeal, have received training on the provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as part of a programme of training on the Criminal Justice Reforms that ran between January and March 2005. This was supplemented with written material provided at the time the Act came into force.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on how many rape appeals in 2004 there was a tribunal which did not contain a judge who had been on the serious sexual offences seminar. [7688]

Ms Harman: This question relates to a matter that is the responsibility of the judiciary. The Lord Chief Justice informs me that the information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which circuit judges who sit in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division have not been on a serious sexual offences training course. [7691]

Ms Harman: This question relates to a matter that is the responsibility of the judiciary. The Lord Chief Justice informs me that all circuit judges who sit in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division have attended the serious sexual offences training course.

Vera Baird: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how long ago each judge of the Court of Appeal attended a serious sexual offences seminar. [7689]

Ms Harman: This question relates to a matter that is the responsibility of the judiciary. The Lord Chief Justice informs me that the seven Court of Appeal judges who have attended the serious sexual offences seminar have done so in the last six years.

Jury Service

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will commission research to assess the ability of juries to understand complex trials. [8519]

Ms Harman: My Department has no plans at the moment to conduct research into the deliberations and requirements of juries. In January 2005 my Department published a Consultation Paper—"Jury Research and Impropriety"—and the relevant consultation period finished on 15 April. The responses are currently being analysed and an announcement of the Government's intentions will be made in due course.

Legal Aid

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will increase remuneration for civil legal aid lawyers. [8350]

Bridget Prentice: There are no immediate plans to increase remuneration for civil legal aid lawyers. Civil legal aid lawyers are paid under a variety of remuneration regimes. In most non-family cases, civil legal aid litigation work would normally be paid at private client rates on the successful conclusion of a case against a privately paying opponent.

The LSC provides additional remuneration for specific priority areas of legal aid work. For example, members of specialist panels in family work, and those undertaking priority housing work are paid guaranteed higher rates. Most Legal Help work has received a 2.5 per cent. increase from April 2005 as part of the Tailored Fixed Fee scheme.

Legal Training

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the adequacy of solicitors' training arrangements. [8329]

Bridget Prentice: I welcome the Law Society's review of solicitors' training. Regular reviews are necessary to ensure training remains up-to-date, fit for purpose and consistent with the wider needs of society.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what representations she has received on the Law Society's Training Framework Review. [8335]

Bridget Prentice: It is for the Law Society to consider responses to its review on its Training Framework. Any recommendations the Law Society makes as a result of that consultation will then be considered by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, whose approval would be needed, in accordance with schedule 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications for legal services of trainee solicitors being *(a)* graduates, *(b)* law graduates and *(c)* beneficiaries of regulated vocational training. [8357]

Bridget Prentice: Any recommendations the Law Society makes as a result of its consultation on its training framework will be considered by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, whose approval would be needed, in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. It would be premature to make such an assessment before any recommendations have been received.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make representations to the Law Society to increase the openness of training arrangements for solicitors to all parts of society. [8358]

Bridget Prentice: The Law Society is fully committed to ensuring training arrangements are flexible and inclusive, while maintaining rigorous standards. The issue of diversity in the profession is of great importance to me and to the Law Society.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the financial implications of the Law Society's proposals for solicitors' training for *(a)* legal aid, *(b)* legal services and *(c)* the legal profession. [8369]

Bridget Prentice: The implications, including financial implications, of any recommendations the Law Society makes following its consultation on its training framework will be considered, in accordance with the provisions of schedule 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. It would be premature to make such an assessment before any recommendations have been received.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make representations to the Law Society on the implications for legal services of its Training Framework Review. [8370]

Bridget Prentice: I have no plans to comment on the Law Society's proposals while they are the subject of a public consultation. Any recommendations the Law Society makes as a result of that consultation will be considered by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, whose approval would be needed, in accordance with schedule 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what reforms her Department proposes to introduce in relation to solicitors' training. [8373]

Bridget Prentice: It is the responsibility of the Law Society to set standards of entry to the solicitors' profession. However, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State must approve any proposals for change put forward by the Law Society, in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

HEALTH

Alliance Medical

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many scans Alliance Medical must conduct over the course of its five year contract to provide scanning services in the NHS. [7555]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 June 2005]:* 630,000 scans will be delivered over the life of the contract.

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 414W, on Alzheimer's, if she will place in the Library copies of the background papers concerning the reviews to which she refers. [5627]

Jane Kennedy: Only limited papers are readily available about past reviews that looked at the list of medical conditions that give exemption from prescription

charges. The cost of searching for all available papers would be disproportionately expensive. The readily available information will be placed in the Library.

An internal review of prescription charges was undertaken by Departmental officials in conjunction with Her Majesty's Treasury as part of the formulation of Government policy for the 1998 comprehensive spending review. This work fed into the outcome of the comprehensive spending review, which was published by Her Majesty's Treasury, pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 908W.

Ambulance Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many ambulances were available in the NHS in London in each year since 1997; [7470]

(2) how many NHS ambulances there were in London in each of the last five years. [8307]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not collected centrally.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average response time was to an emergency call to the ambulance service in each London borough in each year since 1997. [7471]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not collected centrally in the format requested. Data on response times for London Ambulance Service National Health Service Trust is shown in the tables.

Data is available only from 2000–01 which is the year London Ambulance Service NHS Trust introduced prioritisation.

Further information can be found in the statistical bulletin, "Ambulance services, England: 2004–05". Copies are available in the Library and on the Department's website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/36/79/04113679.pdf

Percentage of category A calls responded within eight minutes

	London
1997–98	n/a
1998–99	n/a
1999–2000	n/a
2000–01	41.8
2001–02	57.2
2002–03	69.1
2003–04	76.0
2004–05	76.6

n/a = not available.

Percentage of category A calls responded within 14 to 19 minutes

	London
1997–98	n/a
1998–99	n/a
1999–2000	n/a
2000–01	83.3
2001–02	85.7
2002–03	88.6
2003–04	89.6
2004–05	95.9

n/a = not available.

Percentage of category B/C calls responded within 14 to 19 minutes

	London
1997–98	n/a
1998–99	n/a
1999–2000	n/a
2000–01	79.7
2001–02	78.5
2002–03	79.2
2003–04	77.9
2004–05	81.2

n/a = not available.

Percentage of urgent journeys with arrival time not more than 15 minutes late

	London
1997–98	79.3
1998–99	69.4
1999–2000	61.0
2000–01	50.1
2001–02	48.4
2002–03	46.7
2003–04	50.0
2004–05	58.0

Appraisals (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical devices and *(b)* pharmaceutical products were submitted for appraisal to the (i) National Institute for Clinical Excellence in (A) 2003 and (B) 2004 and (ii) National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2005. [8512]

Jane Kennedy: Details of the appraisal topics referred to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence in 2003 and 2004 and to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2005 are as follows.

In 2003, two work programmes were referred:

Wave 8—April 2003

Pharmaceuticals

Hormonal treatments for early breast cancer

Imatinib (Glivec) for gastro-intenstinal stromal tumours

Gefitinib (Iressa) for non-small cell lung cancer

Statins for prevention of coronary events

Memantine (Ebixa) for moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease

New pharmaceutical treatments for non-Alzheimer dementias

New treatments for venous leg ulcers

New treatments for diabetic foot ulcers

Omalizumab (Xolair) for uncontrolled asthma

Drotecogin (Xigris) and afelimomab (Segard) for severe sepsis

New treatments for moderate to severe psoriasis

Pimecrolimus (Elidel) and tacrolimus (Protopic) for atopic dermatitis (eczema)

Topical steroids in atopic dermatitis (eczema)

Devices

Dual chamber pacing

Other

Parent training programmes, for treatment and prevention of conduct disorder

Wave 9—October 2003

Pharmaceuticals

Adefovir dipivoxil for chronic hepatitis B

Erythropoetin ion chemotherapy-induced anaemia

Etanercept and infliximab for ankylosing spondylitis

Ximelagatran for the treatment of venous thromboembolism

Ximelagatran for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation

Nesiritide for acute decompensated heart failure

Prasterone for systemic lupus erythematosus

Other

Fallers clinics

HealOzone for tooth decay

Thrombophilia screening

2004

Wave 10—June 2004

Pharmaceuticals

Atrasentan for hormone refractory prostate cancer

Cetuximab for head and neck cancer

Pemetrexed disodium in the treatment of mesothelioma

Oxaliplatin, irinotecan and capecitabine as adjuvant therapy in colorectal cancer

Docetaxel for hormone-refractory prostate cancer

Carmustine implants (Gliadel Wafers) for newly diagnosed high grade glioma

Methadone and Bupenorphine as opiate substitutes

Naltrexone as a treatment for relapse prevention

Pegaptanib for age-related macular degeneration

Natalizumab for multiple sclerosis

Adalimumab for rheumatoid arthritis

Lerdelimumab (CAT-152) for prevention of scarring after glaucoma filtration surgery

Strontum ranelate for osteoporosis

Inhaled insulin

Corticosteroids for asthma

Devices

Biventricular pacing (cardiac resynchronisation) for heart failure

Wave 11—April 2005

Pharmaceuticals

Gemcitabine for breast cancer

Docetaxal and paclitaxel for the treatment of early breast cancer

Rituximab for the treatment of low grade non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

Erlotinib and permetrexed for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer

Cinacalcet HCl for hyperparathyroidism

Ezetimibe for hypercholesteremia

Drugs for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension

Other

Stapled haemorrhoidectomy for the treatment of haemorrhoids

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to look at ways to speed up its appraisal process; and if she will make a statement; [8513]

(2) if she will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to review its criteria for appraising medical devices. [8514]

Jane Kennedy: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent organisation, which develops its guidance after careful consideration of the available evidence and in consultation with stakeholders. The process by which it develops its guidance is a matter for NICE. Its processes have been developed through wide consultation, are transparent and have been endorsed by the World Health Organisation. NICE reviews its processes regularly in order to identify opportunities for efficiencies in the way they are applied.

Bacteriophages

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been provided in the last five years by her Department's Research and Development Directorate for research into the effectiveness of bacteriophages in controlling health care associated infection. [3348]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Cancer Treatment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of alternatives to traditional chemotherapy treatment; whether such treatments are available on the NHS; and what estimate has been made of the number of people for whom such treatment would be appropriate. [7715]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* A national chemotherapy advisory group has been set up to consider all aspects of planning and delivery of chemotherapy services and to advise the national cancer director and the Department on the development and delivery of high quality chemotherapy services. This group will consider developments in the field of chemotherapy and their implications for chemotherapy services in the national health service.

A cancer drugs forward planning group has also been set up to identify and consider new cancer drugs and, using a set of agreed criteria, to prioritise them for consideration by the advisory committee for topic selection for potential referral to National Institute for Healthcare and Clinical Excellence.

Clinical Trials

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the use of public private partnership initiatives to develop clinical drug trials. [6955]

Jane Kennedy: The Government aims to work in partnership with the public and private sectors to sustain clinical research for the benefit of patients and the public. In 2002, the pharmaceutical industry competitiveness task force concluded a partnership agreement setting out the ground rules for both contract clinical trials and the non-commercial research collaborations to which industry contributes.

In 2004, the research for patient benefit working party drew attention to the immense contribution of United Kingdom research in the field of biomedical sciences and to the benefit to the national health service, patients and the wider public of encouraging internationally competitive clinical research, sponsored by the industry, and carried out in the NHS. It also recommended action to reverse some damaging trends.

To improve the environment for clinical research, the UK clinical research collaboration was created in 2004. It is a partnership between Government, the voluntary sector, patients, research funders and industry. Its work streams include developing networks within the NHS that will provide a platform for industry-contracted and collaborative research alongside NHS research, in areas identified as being critical to establishing the UK as a world leader in clinical research.

Community Pharmacies

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community pharmacies in each London borough *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since 2000–01; and if she will make a statement. [7801]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of community pharmacies opened and closed by London borough is not centrally collected. However, information is available by health authority (HA) prior to 2002 and from 2002, by primary care trust (PCT).

Table 1 shows the number of community pharmacies by London HA prior to 2002 and table 2 shows the number of community pharmacies by London PCTs from 2002 onwards.

Table 1: By London HA—2000–01 to 2001–02

HA	Total number of community pharmacies	Number of community pharmacies 2000–01		Number of community pharmacies 2001–02	
		Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Brent and Harrow	129	0	1	0	1
Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow	161	0	3	0	2
Hillingdon	62	0	0	0	0
Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster	148	0	2	0	0
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey	194	0	0	0	1
Camden and Islington	111	0	0	0	0
Barking and Havering	79	0	0	0	1
East London and City	166	0	1	0	1
Redbridge and Waltham Forest	108	0	1	0	0
Bexley Bromley and Greenwich	151	0	0	0	0
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham	174	0	2	0	0
Croydon	68	0	1	0	0
Kingston and Richmond	75	0	1	0	0
Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth	143	0	0	0	2

Note:
Some HAs served more than one London borough.

Table 2: By London PCT—2002–03 to 2003–04

PCT	Number of pharmacies on establishment of PCTs in 2002	Number of community pharmacies 2002–03		Number of community pharmacies 2003–04	
		Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Brent Teaching	71	0	0	0	0
Ealing	69	0	0	1	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	41	0	0	0	1
Harrow	57	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	62	0	0	0	0
Hounslow	50	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	41	0	0	0	0
Westminster	106	0	0	0	1
Barnet	78	0	0	1	0
Camden	63	0	0	0	0

Table 2: By London PCT—2002–03 to 2003–04

PCT	Number of pharmacies on establishment of PCTs in 2002	Number of community pharmacies 2002–03		Number of community pharmacies 2003–04	
		Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Islington	47	0	0	0	0
Enfield	59	0	0	0	0
Haringey	57	0	0	0	1
Barking and Dagenham	36	0	0	0	1
City and Hackney	65	0	0	0	0
Havering	43	0	0	0	0
Newham	60	0	0	0	0
Redbridge[1]	39	0	0	11	0
Tower Hamlets	43	0	0	0	1
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone[2]	46	0	46	—	—
Waltham Forest[3]	—	—	—	58	0
Bexley	47	0	0	0	1
Bromley	57	0	0	0	0
Greenwich	47	0	0	1	0
Lambeth	59	0	0	0	1
Lewisham	52	0	0	0	0
Southwark	63	0	0	0	0
Croydon	68	0	0	0	0
Kingston	29	0	0	0	0
Richmond and Twickenham	45	0	0	0	0
Sutton and Merton	77	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	65	0	0	2	0

[1] Redbridge PCT previously sat in Redbridge and Waltham Forest HA and the total number of pharmacies for the HA as at 2001–02 was 108. In 2002, Redbridge PCT was established and initially had had 39 pharmacies, increasing by 11 with the establishing of Waltham Forest PCT in 2003, which had 58 pharmacies. It is useful to note that the combined figure of community pharmacies for both Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCTs in 2003–04 is equal to that of the previous HA total of 108.
[2] Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT no longer exists.
[3] Newly established PCT on 1 April 2003.

Dentistry

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS dentists have retired in each year since 1997; [4359]

(2) how many NHS dentists have left the NHS in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [4360]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of dentists, who have come off the dental lists held by the Dental Practice Board (DPB) in England in the 12-month period ending 31 March 2005 was 1,008. However, many of these dentists would not have been providing exclusively national health service treatment and therefore the number does not reflect a loss of 1,008 whole time equivalent dentists to the service.

Dentists stop practising in general dental service (CDS) or personal dental service (PDS) for a number of reasons, including retirement and short-term breaks. Some dentists have not left indefinitely and intend to return. There is no requirement for a dentist to indicate why to indicate why they have stopped practising. Neither the Department nor the DPB records the reason why a dentist has stopped practising.

The number of individual dentists in England with open CDS or PDS contracts at 31 March 2005 was 20,088 compared to 19,294 at 31 March 2004.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices in Sussex are currently taking on new NHS patients; and how many were open to new NHS patients in 1997. [4472]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about dental practices, which were open to new patients in 1997 are not held centrally. Information about practices currently taking on new national health service patients is not centrally collected, but can be assessed either through NHS Direct or through local primary care trusts.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Lancashire are registered with an NHS dentist. [6309]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested for the primary care trusts (PCTs) within the Lancashire area is shown in the table.

Primary care trusts	Number
Cumbria and Lancashire strategic health authority	771,011
Blackburn with Darwen	66,755
Blackpool	71,026
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale	97,181
Chorley and South Ribble	102,058
Fylde	52,001
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	46,901
Morecambe Bay	143,653
Preston	68,147
West Lancashire	55,231
Wyre	68,058

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were registered with an NHS dentist in the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the population that represented in each year. [6322]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Patients registered with a national health service dentist in Newcastle primary care trust as at 30 September

	Number of patients registered	Percentage of population registered with a dentist
2000	n/a	n/a
2001	141,552	53
2002	148,039	56
2003	144,531	54
2004[1]	148,691	56

n/a = not available.
[1] 2004 population data not available at this level—2003 data used.
Sources:
Dental Practice Board and Office for National Statistics.

Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses are employed in each hospital located in the Haringey teaching primary care trust area; and if she will make a statement. [7800]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is shown in the table.

National health service hospital and community health services: total number of qualified nurses in the specified organisations as at 30 September 2004

	Total nurses	Nurse consultant	Manager	Registered sick nurse
Total nursing staff	4,950	3	117	134
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	1,003	0	39	0
Haringey PCT	324	1	13	0
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	964	0	49	26
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1,836	0	1	59
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	823	2	15	49

	Registered midwife	District nurse	Health visitor
Total nursing staff	353	54	49
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	0	0	0
Haringey PCT	0	54	49
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	127	0	0
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	72	0	0
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	154	0	0

Source:
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census 2004.

Hepatitis

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports have been made of adverse reactions to hepatitis B vaccination under the yellow card scheme in each year since the introduction of hepatitis B vaccine. [6972]

Jane Kennedy: The safety of all medicines and vaccines, including hepatitis B vaccine, is continuously monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), with expert advice from the Committee on Safety of Medicines. The MHRA uses a variety of data sources for this purpose including reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) which are reported through the yellow card scheme, clinical trials, published literature, epidemiological studies and periodic safety update reports from marketing authorisation holders.

The table shows the total number of suspected ADR reports received via the yellow card scheme from 1 January to 31 December for hepatitis B vaccine during each year since the first report was received in 1983.

Number of reports of suspected ADRs received per year for hepatitis B vaccine

Year report received	Number of reports
1983	5
1984	13
1985	14
1986	47
1987	107
1988	310
1989	182
1990	175
1991	168
1992	198
1993	227
1994	251
1995	235
1996	252
1997	226
1998	273
1999	193
2000	161
2001	148
2002	116
2003	122
2004	89
2005	46

It is important to note that a report of a suspected adverse reaction does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug or vaccine. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication or a newly occurring or previously undiagnosed underlying illness.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5117]

Mr. Pope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Hutton) on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059W.

Hospital Beds (London)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency beds there were in each strategic health authority in London in January in each of the last three years. [8011]

Jane Kennedy: The data requested are published on the Department's website at: www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/critical_care_beds.htm.

Hospital Travel Costs Scheme

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with hospital trusts on the implementation of its Hospital Travel Costs Scheme Guidance (2003) with reference to the promotion of the Hospital Travel Costs scheme to patients attending hospital for cancer treatment. [7938]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect any central information or issue guidance regarding the promotion of the Hospital Travel Costs scheme to patients attending hospital for cancer treatment.

Hospital-acquired Infections

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role community matrons play in minimising MRSA in residential care and nursing homes; and if she will make a statement. [5897]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 22 June 2005]:* The "Matron's Charter" launched in October 2004, reinforced the matron's role by setting out 10 key commitments to cleanliness, aimed at all staff in the national health service. Although the focus was on care in the hospital setting, many of the principles espoused are applicable across the whole spectrum of health care.

Residential care and nursing homes are not required to have community matrons on staff complements but may receive advice from community matrons on clinical issues.

The care homes regulations set out requirements for hygiene and infection control and care home providers are required to ensure that at all times suitably qualified, competent and experienced staff are working in the care home. These persons should receive training appropriate to their work and infection control is detailed in the induction standards set by Skills for Care and should be used by all new staff and those taking national vocational qualifications.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has undertaken into possible links between use of agency and bank nursing staff within the NHS and prevalence of MRSA and other hospital-acquired infections. [6552]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has conducted initial research to examine the links between the use of temporary nursing staff, hospital cleanliness and "methicillin resistant" *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). However, the work is still in progress and results are not yet available.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Department's policy is on the use of *(a)* disinfectants and *(b)* detergents for cleaning, with particular reference to control of hospital infections. [7735]

Jane Kennedy: The use of disinfectants is a local decision and trusts should have local policies on disinfectant use focused on specific infection risks.

The National health service cleaning manual, which is endorsed by experts in cleaning and microbiology, recommends detergents for routine use, but recognises disinfectants are needed in particular circumstances.

As overuse of disinfectants can damage some fabrics and surfaces and may encourage the development of resistant organisms, the Department is supporting research into microfibre cleaning, which requires neither detergents nor disinfectant. Early results are encouraging. The cleaning manual will be updated following the trial.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff at the *(a)* Whittington hospital, *(b)* Royal Free hospital Hampstead, *(c)* North Middlesex university hospital and *(d)* Haringey teaching primary care trust St. Ann's hospital have been allocated to the treatment of (i) Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, (ii) Vancomycin-Intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus*, (iii) *Clostridium difficile* Associated Diarrhoea, (iv) Vancomycin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and (v) Glycopeptide-Resistant Enterococci in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the budget of each hospital was allocated to the treatment of each in each year. [7751]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has evaluated on possible risks of transmission of MRSA within hospitals on neck-ties worn by doctors and other hospital staff; and if she will make a statement. [7762]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 June 2005]:* Although studies by Nurkin et al have shown the presence of pathogens on neckties, the evidence indicates that inadequate hand hygiene is the main cause of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) transmission. However, health care workers should use appropriate protective clothing such as aprons to prevent transmission of micro-organisms to patients and contamination of their own clothing or skin.

Intensive Care (Enfield)

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* intensive care and *(b)* high dependency beds there were in Enfield in the most recent year for which figures are available. [7613]

Jane Kennedy: There are two hospitals in Enfield, Chase Farm, which is part of the Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals National Health Service Trust and North Middlesex university hospital, which is the only hospital in the North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust. Data on intensive care and high dependency beds is collected by trusts and the latest available data, as at 13 January 2005, is shown in the table.

Hospital trust	*Number of intensive care beds*	*Number of high dependency beds*
Barnet and Chase Farm	8	6
North Middlesex University	7	4

Meals on Wheels

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which social services authorities provide meals on wheels *(a)* cooked ready to eat, *(b)* frozen, *(c)* comprised of sandwiches and *(d)* cooked and chilled. [7205]

Mr. Byrne: Data is not centrally available in the form requested.

Mental Health Bill

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she expects to publish her response to the pre-legislative security committee on the draft Mental Health Bill; [8345]

(2) when she expects to publish the final version of the Mental Health Bill. [8346]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is currently considering the recommendations of the report of the joint committee on the draft Mental Health Bill and a response will be published shortly. Following the publication of the Government's response, a Mental Health Bill will be presented before Parliament as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements are in place to ensure that people aged 65 years or over with mental health issues have access to *(a)* bereavement counselling, *(b)* assertive outreach teams, *(c)* crisis resolution teams and *(d)* community mental health teams; [6396]

(2) what reasons older people under the care of assertive outreach teams cease to receive the service when they reach of the age of 65. [7199]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The needs of older people with mental health problems are the focus of a standard in the national service framework for older people (2001), which is designed to ensure that the right services are there to meet the needs of older people with mental health problems whether they live at home, in residential care or are being cared for in hospital. Where an older person has severe mental illness due to a psychotic illness such as schizophrenia, they will require the packages of care set out in the national service framework for mental health, and the same standards should apply as for working age adults. For these people care should be provided within the framework of the care programme approach. Bereavement counselling services should be accessible by people of any age through referral by a general practitioner.

The Department's guidance on functionalised community teams, "Mental Health Policy Implementation Guide (2001)", explains that such services are commonly for adults aged up to 65 years. This guidance specifies that for crisis resolution teams there should be flexibility in every locality to decide to treat those who fall outside this age group where appropriate. For assertive outreach teams, the same guidance states that the boundaries between different health care services should be flexible to respond to different needs. The "Mental Health Policy Implementation Guide" also makes clear that as long as there is evidence of benefit, assertive outreach can continue indefinitely. The "Mental Health Policy Implementation Guide for Community Mental Health Teams (2002)" requires age limits to be determined in line with locally agreed protocols for transitions from adolescent to adult and adult to older adult services.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria were used to set the priorities for the National Service Framework for Mental Health, with particular reference to the age of sufferers; and what arrangements are in place to ensure that people with mental health problems continue to have access to services once they reach 65 years. [6398]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national service framework for mental health (1999) concentrates on the mental health needs of working age adults up to 65 and touches on the needs of children and young people, highlighting areas where services for children and adults interact, for example the interface between services for 16 to 18-year-olds, and the needs of children with a mentally ill parent.

The needs of children and adolescents with mental health problems are the focus of a standard in the children's national service framework which gives guidance on what is envisaged in a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service.

The needs of older people with mental health problems are the focus of a standard in the national service framework for older people (2001), which is designed to ensure that the right services are there to meet the needs of older people with mental health problems whether they live at home, in residential care or are being cared for in hospital. Where an older person has severe mental illness due to a psychotic illness such as schizophrenia, they will require the packages of care set out in the national service framework for mental health, and the same standards should apply as for working age adults. For these people care should be provided within the framework of the care programme approach.

The Department's guidance on the care programme approach, "Effective Care Co-ordination in Mental Health Services" (1999), requires services to have in place clearly identified plans and protocols for meeting the needs of younger and older people moving from one service to another. The priorities and planning framework for the national health service 2003–06 includes a target to ensure that protocols are in place across all health and social care systems for the care and management of older people with mental health problems.

The annual performance ratings of mental health trusts carried out by the Healthcare Commission in 2004 and by the Commission for Health Improvement in 2003 employed performance indicators on the availability of clear protocols for transition between children's, adults' and older people's mental health services.

Missed Appointments (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients failed to turn up for *(a)* general practitioner and *(b)* hospital appointments in (i) Chorley and (ii) Lancashire in 2004–05. [7596]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of missed out-patient appointments for the year 2004–05 in England was 5,707,288, or 11.3 per cent. Data for individual national health service trusts are available in the Library.

The Department does not collect data on the number of missed general practice appointments, but there is some evidence to suggest the number of missed appointments are falling.

MRI Scan

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a MRI scan is at each London hospital. [8204]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS Budget

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the annual change in the NHS budget required to meet the higher cost associated with *(a)* an ageing population and *(b)* improved health care technology; and if she will make a statement. [8104]

Mr. Byrne: In the report "Securing our long term health: taking a long term view", Derek Wanless reported that the impact of ageing on future health expenditure is likely to be small compared with other cost drivers. The report also states that medical technology, including drugs and equipment, would contribute two to three percentage points to the annual rate of growth in health spending in the future, compared to an average of two percentage points a year over the previous 20 years.

NHS Staff

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* administrative staff and *(b)* temporary staff have been employed at (i) Whittington hospital, (ii) Royal Free hospital Hampstead, (iii) North Middlesex university hospital and (iv) Haringey teaching primary care trust St. Ann's hospital in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [7761]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is shown in the table. St Ann's hospital is part of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust.

National health service hospital and community health services: Total clerical and administrative staff in Haringey teaching primary care trust area by contractual term as at 30 September each specified year

Full-time equivalent

		2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Total administrative staff		1,326	1,595	1,794	1,979	2,075
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	RRP	n/a	176	249	278	352
Haringey PCT	5C9	n/a	114	114	139	161
North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	291	294	327	391	359
Royal Free NHS Trust	RAL	722	700	778	830	860
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	RKE	312	311	326	341	342

n/a = not applicable

Note:
Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Source:
Health and Social Care Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her estimate is of the total cost of suspending NHS staff in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the average cost was of suspending one member of *(a)* medical staff and *(b)* non-medical clinical staff per annum for the most recent period for which figures are available; [5625]

(2) how many *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical clinical staff in the NHS have been (i) formally suspended and (ii) informally suspended from work in each year since 1997; and what steps she is taking to ensure that suspensions that occur are unavoidable; [5595]

(3) what the average length of time of suspensions from the NHS for *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical clinical staff was in the last year for which figures are available. [5596]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested on formal and informal suspensions of medical and non-medical

clinical staff and the length of those suspensions and their cost is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The National Audit Office provided information on clinical staff excluded from work in 2001 and 2002 in its report, "The Management of Suspensions of Clinical Staff in NHS Hospital and Ambulance Trusts in England", which is available in the Library.

The most recent data collect by the National Clinical Assessment Service, now part of the National Patient Safety Agency, shows that, in the fourth quarter of 2004, 19 doctors were suspended for six months or more.

Northwick Park Hospital (Maternity)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of maternity services at Northwick Park hospital; and if she will make a statement. [7465]

Jane Kennedy: The North West London hospitals national health service trust is actively addressing issues at the maternity unit at Northwick Park hospital. Last year, the trust, Brent primary care trust (PCT) and Harrow PCT invited the Healthcare Commission to help the trust with improvements. In April 2005, the Department, on the recommendation of the Healthcare Commission, introduced special measures at the unit to provide additional resource and external clinical support to accelerate the improvement programme.

I understand that the Healthcare Commission will shortly be publishing its report on these issues. The Department will consider the Commission's findings carefully and work with the trust and North West London strategic health authority to ensure that the appropriate action is taken.

Patient Care (Private Companies)

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make a statement on the monitoring that is undertaken by her Department of the safety and quality of patient care provided by private companies delivering out of hours primary care services; [5949]

(2) how many adverse incidents have been recorded for GP out-of-hours services in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement; [5950]

(3) if she will make a statement on the monitoring undertaken by her Department of the development of community out-of-hours services under the new GP contract. [5951]

Mr. Byrne: The Department set quality requirements that came into effect from 1 January 2005. These set the minimum standards for the delivery of out-of-hours care. In line with "Shifting the Balance of Power", it is for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, not the Department, to monitor out-of-hours services against these quality requirements and, where necessary, take action in cases of adverse incidents or complaints.

Primary Care Trusts

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the funding per capita was for each primary care trust in England in 2004–05; what the budgeted funding per capita is for each trust in 2005–06; and what the average figure for all trusts is for each year. [4916]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) today.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the funding was per head for each primary care trust area in England in 2004–05; and what the expected level is in 2005–06. [4622]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) are based on the population weighted for a number of factors. These factors include:

Age related need—to recognise that people tend to have a greater need as they grow older.

Additional needs—to reflect difference in health need over and above that accounted for by age.

Unavoidable difference in the cost of providing services.

The revenue allocations for PCTs increased from £49.3 billion for 2004–05 to £53.9 billion for 2005–06; and are due to increase further to £64 billion in 2006–07 and £70 billion in 2007–08. Over the two years covered by this further allocation, PCTs will receive an average increase of 19.5 per cent.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sanctions are available to her should primary care trusts ignore guidance on the availability of medical treatment issued by her Department. [3950]

Jane Kennedy: The primary responsibility for implementing national guidance rests with the national health service at local level. Compliance with national guidance by NHS organisations will be considered by the Healthcare Commission during their review and performance assessment process.

Retinopathy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with diabetes were screened for retinopathy on the NHS in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004. [6671]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Figures from the national health service show that in 2003–04, 835,900 people with diabetes were screened for retinopathy and 1,076,400 in 2004–05. Figures for 2002–03 are not held centrally.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what quality assurance protocols are in place for retinopathy screening on the NHS; [6672]

(2) how much central funding is planned to be allocated for *(a)* an external and independent quality assurance programme and *(b)* an internal quality assurance programme for retinal screening. [6673]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Quality assurance standards have been developed and piloted by the United Kingdom national screening committee's national screening programme for sight threatening retinopathy. A full list of the quality assurance standards can be found on the national screening programme's website at: www.nscretinopathy.org.uk

There is no central funding for quality assurance at this time. The diabetes national service framework has been fully costed and revenue funding to deliver the national and locally-determined targets has been included in primary care trust allocations.

Ward Sisters

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to employ ward sisters to improve cleanliness on hospital wards. [7975]

Jane Kennedy: It is already the Department's policy that ward sisters are responsible, within their wards, for agreeing cleaning standards, making sure standards are met and working with cleaning staff to help them fulfil their roles. Ward sisters are responsible for the whole of the clinical and operational management of wards, and ensuring the ward is clean is just one part of their very wide remit.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of *(a)* the financial situation of the West Herts Hospitals Trust, *(b)* the implications for clinical services of its financial situation and *(c)* proposals for ward closures at Watford hospitals; what plans she has to provide additional (i) financial and (ii) other support to the Trust; and if she will make a statement. [3914]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In line with "Shifting The Balance Of Power" strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for the financial performance management of individual health organisations within their health economy. It is the responsibility of SHAs to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every body achieves financial balance.

I am advised that the West Hertfordshire Hospital National Health Service Trust is working with primary care trusts to agree a recovery plan to ensure that it delivers national targets, meets the national standards for high quality health care and achieves its statutory duties. Decisions on how this is best delivered within the West Hertfordshire health and social care system is a local decision and thus Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA is working with the local NHS to support them in this process and ensure that there is the management capacity to produce and deliver the recovery plan.

I am also assured that the West Hertfordshire NHS Trust will continue to work hard to meet the standards laid down by the Healthcare Commission and that patient care will not be compromised.

Work-related Stress

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of work-related stress have been reported in her Department in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to employees in each year; how many work days were lost due to work-related stress in each year; and at what cost; what procedures have been put in place to reduce work-related stress; and at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [7864]

Jane Kennedy: The Department does not hold any data specifically on the number of reported cases of work-related stress. While the Department collects data on sickness absence, which includes stress, it is not possible to identify whether the cause of the stress related illness or anxiety was work related. It is not currently possible, therefore, to identify costs. However, the Department's recording systems are currently being developed in a way that will help identify which cases are potentially work-related at the time they are recorded. This will enable appropriate remedial action to be taken at the earliest opportunity.

The Department's settlement or compensation payments are made in respect of Employment (Industrial) Tribunal cases, which address a number of inter-related circumstances, of which work-related stress is only one element. Compensation payments on the grounds of work-related stress are not recorded separately.

The Department has a number of procedures already in place to help managers and staff to be aware of and reduce work-related stress and it is currently looking at further interventions.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Advantage West Midlands

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the projects submitted by the Rover Task Force to *(a)* Advantage West Midlands and *(b)* the Government Office of the West Midlands for possible funding; and how much has been requested to support each project. [7621]

Ian Pearson: Advantage West Midlands (AWM) is the vehicle which co-ordinates the funding directed by the MG Rover Task Force (MGRTF). The funding package is administered by other regional agencies such as the Learning and Skills Councils and Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM).

To date, the following requests have been made by the MGRTF to AWM:

£250,000 to reopen and man the MG Rover Distribution Centres to allow suppliers to recover the consignment stocks they own;

£150,000 to retain for 12 weeks a team of MGR Human Resources staff, principally to prepare records of employment for all former workers for use when seeking jobs;

£202,000 to pay the wages of apprentices while alternative employment for them is Found;

£40,000 to support for a major jobs fair in Birmingham.

The MGRTF has also approved support of £10 million for the Advantage Transition Bridge Fund.

The MGRTF has also approved proposals from regional agencies for funding which includes:

Support for suppliers to retain employees. £3.7 million has been committed to date and is kept under review by the Task Force;

Establishment of a "Manufacturing Hub" to try to ensure engineering manufacturing skills are not lost to the region by placing workers with such skills into posts requiring such skills and by incentivising businesses to recruit them;

Includes post-recruitment retraining, and assistance with long-distance commuting. Up to a maximum of £3.6 million (dependent on take-up);

Funding for former employees who wish to take up full-time vocational training (cash limited). Up to a maximum of £600,000.

Funding to support potential start-up businesses amongst former employees. Up to a maximum of £900,000.

Government Office for the West Midlands has received funding requests from the following projects to support the work of the MGRTF.

Project name	*ERDF/ESF requested*
Accelerate Extension	£4.94 million
Extension Cluster Action Plan	£1 million
Wage Subsidy Scheme	£5 million ESF
Grants for R and D Extension	£1.5 million
ESF Over 50s	£1.50 million
Road Infrastructure	£5.1 million
Regional Repositioning (now called 'Marketing the Region')	£1.7 million
High Tech Corridor Support	£778,000
Community Network SW	£750,000
Longbridge Masterplanning	£750,000
SME Internationalisation Extension	Up to £1.4 million
Sustainable A38 regeneration employment opportunities	£500,000
Innovation Networks Extension	£430, 000

A number of projects are still under development by the MG Rover Task Force and regional partners.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Government have allocated to the Export Credits Guarantee Department in each of the last five years. [6792]

Ian Pearson: The cash generated for/(cash cost to) the Exchequer as a result of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD's) operating activities, as published in schedule 4 to its Resource Accounts, in each of the last five years, is summarised in the following table. Figures in brackets represent Exchequer cash used to fund ECGD's Operating Activities; figures without brackets represent net cash receipts for the Exchequer, which include recoveries of past claims, interest paid by debtors in respect of those claims and premiums received in respect of ECGD's underwriting activities:

£ million

	Cash generated/(used)
1999–2000	(107.1)
2000–01	(59.8)
2001–02	24.3
2002–03	327.8
2003–04	546.7

Mail Delivery (North London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with Royal Mail on performance in delivery of mail in north London; and if he will make a statement. [7806]

Barry Gardiner: DTI Ministers and officials meet with representatives from Royal Mail on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues, including delivery performance issues.

First class quality of service for 2004–05 in the London N postcode area as a whole was:

	Percentage
Q1	88.4
Q2	88.2
Q3	92.4
Q4	91.2
Cumulative	90.2

This was against a target of 92.5 percent. Nationally Royal Mail recorded its highest Q4 performance ever this year with a 92.8 percent. service. Royal Mail's chairman and chief executive have assured Ministers that the company's board will continue to give quality of service top priority.

MG Rover

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish *(a)* the written records of conversations and *(b)* correspondence between (i) Ministers and (ii) officials from his Department and senior representatives of the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation that took place in the week commencing Monday 4 April. [5868]

Ian Pearson: It would be inappropriate to release this information at this time as it would breach commercial confidentiality.

Minimum Wage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what penalties have been imposed on companies found paying their employees below the minimum wage. [6631]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since the minimum wage was introduced in April 1999 the Inland Revenue have served 133 penalty notices on employers who they found were not paying their workers the minimum wage.

A penalty notice imposes a financial penalty equal to twice the hourly amount of the adult minimum wage per worker for each day of non-payment of the minimum wage.

Post Offices (Hornsey and Wood Green)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices were in operation in Hornsey and Wood Green in each of the last 10 years. [8404]

Barry Gardiner: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL) and the chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

UK Trade and Investment

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what commercial services UK Trade and Investment provides to companies in relation to identifying potential agents in export markets. [7909]

Ian Pearson: UK Trade and Investment provides information on potential agents in two main ways. First, off the shelf lists of companies may be available in the UK, although the details may not have been recently

validated. Secondly, our Overseas Market Introduction Service (OMIS) provides bespoke lists that can be validated at the request of the customer. Advice on the best ways of doing business in the market concerned is also included. It is for customers themselves to determine the best agent in the light of their individual needs and circumstances.

Unwanted Correspondence

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to curb the growth of unsolicited postal applications for credit cards. [6962]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Consumers can register with the Mailing Preference Service to have their name and home address removed from lists used by the direct mail industry. On credit cards themselves, the Banking Code provides that customers' names and addresses will not be passed on to any company for marketing purposes unless permission is specifically given by that customer. In addition, since 31 May 2005, all credit card applications must have a separate document detailing the key features of the card. This will enable the consumer to make a more informed decision about the suitability of the product prior to the conclusion of any agreement.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with Royal Mail on adopting a service to restrict delivery of harmful or unwanted overseas correspondence; and what representations he has received on this matter. [7908]

Barry Gardiner: I have had no discussions with Royal Mail about this issue, nor received any representations.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how much unwanted correspondence was withheld from delivery as a result of the co-operation of Royal Mail Holdings plc with the Mail Preference Service (MPS) in the last period for which figures are available; and from how many users of the MPS; [7926]

(2) how many users have been registered with the Mail Preference Service in each of the last 10 years. [7927]

Barry Gardiner: The Government do not hold this information. The Mailing Preference Service is a free service funded by the direct mail industry to enable consumers to have their names and addresses in the UK removed from or added to lists used by the industry.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what powers are available to limit the delivery of unwanted or harmful mail sent from *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* overseas. [7928]

Barry Gardiner: The Postal Services Act 2000 contains powers that prohibit the sending of certain articles by post and provide postal operators with various powers to detain postal packets, forward them to HM Customs and Excise, refuse transmission of packets, detain and open them, return to sender or forward to their destination or destroy or dispose of packets.

Under section 89 of the Act a universal service provider may make a scheme that contains provisions prohibiting the transmission of certain articles by post.